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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On the 23rd inst., at the Bungalow, Mount Kellet, the Peak, the wife of HENRY E. BOXSHALL, of a son. [1946]

MARRIAGES.

On the 18th August, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. Alfred Hiff, STEPHEN JOHN GRAINGER, of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service, Lappa, to BLANCHE CHARITY SMITH, eldest daughter of the late Mr. JOHN SMITH, Straits Settlements. [1936]

On the 12th inst., at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Shanghai, MARIA PHILIPPA MULLER, youngest daughter of A. BOTELHO, of Macao, to J. E. S. MACARTHUR, second son of Capt. J. MACARTHUR, of Melbourne, Victoria.

DEATH.

At Petersfield, Hampshire, on the 20th inst., in the 72nd year of her age, MARY ANN, widow of the late JOSEPH MACKRILL SMITH. [1937]

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 24th July arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Kaiser-i-Hind*, on the 21st August (28 days); the German mail of the 27th July arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Bayern*, on the 24th August (28 days); the American mail of the 30th July arrived, per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 24th August (25 days); and the Canadian mail of the 3rd August arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 25th August (22 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A special telegram from Peking to the N. C. *Daily News* states that there is no truth in the report that Wu Ting-fang (Ng Choy) has been appointed Chinese Minister to the United States, etc.

Quarantine at Singapore against Hongkong and Swatow has now been discontinued. Amoy is also reported free of the disease.

The King and Queen of Siam arrived at Bangkok, on their return from Java and Singapore, on the 12th August.

On the 23rd August a party of Hongkong gentlemen who had gone to Deep Bay shooting were attacked by the natives, but succeeded in beating off their assailants.

Lekin is to be levied on rice exported from Wuhu, the reason being that the provincial Government have been called upon to contribute funds for the national debt charges.

Reuter's Agency learns that Li Hung-chang has made no concessions to Russia, but that he favoured a junction of the Amur lines with Manchuria. No Convention had been signed and no port ceded to Russia.

We (N. C. *Daily News*) learn with great regret that news has been received of the death of the Ritter C. von Boleslawski, who was very popular at Shanghai as Austro-Hungarian Consul in the seventies, and was recently appointed Minister at Peking for Austria-Hungary.

Correspondence relating to the increased telegraph charges has been published with the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. It is intended shortly to call a general meeting of the members to consider the subject.

The following, dated Chefoo, 18th August, appears as a special telegram in the N. C. *Daily News*:—The Russians occupied the disputed foreshore on Saturday and began digging foundations. Messrs. Fergusson & Co. applied for an injunction restraining them, but were refused.

It is reported in certain native quarters, says the N. C. *Daily News*, that there has been a hitch in the final negotiations of the Commercial Treaty between China and Japan at Peking. Certain clauses, it is said, require to be amended, which the Emperor and his advisers insist upon.

In a case tried in the Hongkong Summary Jurisdiction Court the jury awarded a Chinese firm the sum of \$500 as damages against the members of the Sanitary Board for wrongful acts committed by the Board's servants in connection with the cleansing operations and the removal of cocklofts.

The outer edge of a typhoon was experienced at Kobe on the 18th August. A steam launch and several cargo boats came to grief and on shore some fences were blown down, but on the whole the damage was not very serious. All the steamers in port had steam up and several shifted their anchorage.

The *Mercury* says:—In Peking matters are not improving. The Emperor is apparently in failing health and counts for nothing in the political programme. The Empress-Dowager has succeeded in removing him from the counsels of the only two men, his old tutors, Sun and Weng, who were capable of exciting his languid intellect, and now rules alone. Even Peking is scandalised by the irregularities and extravagance of her Court.

The Chinese Government has paid to the British Consul at Canton the sum of \$21,82, being the amount of the claim preferred by Mr. John Andrew for loss incurred through the illegal action of the authorities at Wuchowfu.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Mercury* states that on Saturday, the 8th August, the U.S. Minister and Mrs. Denby, who were proceeding to Peking towed by the Viceroy's launch, were capsized and narrowly escaped what might have been a fatal catastrophe.

According to a Reuter's telegram Russia is favourably inclined to a revision of the Chinese Customs tariff, Germany awaits Great Britain's action on the question, and France awaits the opinion of her Minister in Peking. The *Times* states that Lord Salisbury has informed Li Hung-chang he is in favour of the principle of increasing the tariff, but that he must consult the Chambers of Commerce in Shanghai and elsewhere before giving his consent.

The *Asahi Shimbun*, translated by the *Japan Mail*, says that the scenes in Gifu Prefecture after the recent floods are more appalling than those experienced in the late seismic disaster. The number of people rendered homeless for five days was 170,000, and 120,000 are still receiving charity. Since the setting in of very hot weather, typhoid fever, dysentery, and other maladies have raged unchecked, and at present drinking water is supplied from Aichi Prefecture. The relief required amounts to two millions of yen.

From *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd* we learn that on the 17th August a well-attended meeting was held at the Club Concordia, Shanghai, for the purpose of considering how best to perpetuate the memory of those lost in H.I.G.M.'s gunboat *Ilis*. Consul-General Dr. Stuebel presided and a committee was formed consisting of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Consul-General Dr. Stuebel, Ph. Arnhold, C. Beuermann, A. Schomburg, Count Butler, A. Korff, and Dr. Zedelius. It was decided to circulate a subscription-list amongst Germans residing in China, and with the money thus collected to erect a suitable monument. The committee subsequently enquired of the Municipal Council whether they would allow the monument to be erected somewhere on the grass-plot on the Bund, and to this request the Council have most readily consented.

The Hanoi Chamber of Commerce has resigned in consequence of the attitude of the Government with regard to the Red River transit trade. The Chamber has protested at various times against the excessive charges and vexatious regulations to which this trade is subjected, but the Government supported the Commissioner of Customs, and the outcome of the dispute is the resignation of the Chamber as a body. The Government requested it to reconsider its decision, but without effect. The chief grievance seems to be the imposition of a charge of 16 cents on each package for "plombage." The goods by this route have to be packed in small parcels to allow of their carriage by porters when they leave the river, each ton being divided into thirty-three packages, and the charge being imposed upon each package, the sum total under this heading comes to \$5.28 per ton, not to speak of other charges.

REVISION OF THE CHINESE TARIFF.

The statement made by *The Times*, that Lord SALISBURY has informed LI HUNG-CHANG he is in favour of the principle of increasing the tariff of duties on imports into China, but that he must consult the Chambers of Commerce in Shanghai and elsewhere before giving his consent, is satisfactory, as confirming the pledge given by the noble Lord to the China Association, dated the 2nd July, "that no change shall be made in existing Treaties without previous reference to those who are specially interested in the importation of British goods into China." We trust, however, that no revision of the tariff will be consented to unless and until other demands which have been put forward shall have been conceded by China. The Burmah frontier question, the rectification of the boundaries of this colony in compensation for the cession of the Shan State to France by the Peking Government, and the opening of the West River and other inland waterways of South China to foreign trade and steamer navigation are matters that should all be definitely settled before the revision of the tariff comes into discussion. No doubt LI HUNG-CHANG and the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamen would like to put this question into the forefront and make its concession the condition for agreeing to other demands, but we hope Lord SALISBURY will firmly refuse to allow the negotiations on this subject to be hampered with any other issues. The concession in no case could be entertained unless the Chinese Government are prepared to give guarantees that the single levy will clear the imports of all further exactions and make them free to go through any part of the Chinese Empire. This is the position that should be taken up, and it would require very good guarantees indeed to satisfy British distrust of the unspeakable mandarin.

Reuter informs us that Russia is favourably inclined to a revision of the Customs tariff, but that Germany awaits the action of Great Britain, and France desires the opinion of her Minister in Peking before giving any reply. The decision, however, really rests with the British Government. As in the case of Japan, other Powers may negotiate new treaties or tariffs, but they are not likely to come into operation, any more than did the new American Treaty with Japan, until Great Britain has first been reckoned with. There is no reason why the British Government should put themselves out of the way to oblige China and increase her revenue. Considering that more than three-fourths of that revenue is contributed by British trade, it would be the height of folly to tax that trade for the enrichment of a Government that has uniformly and insistently shown nothing but bad faith, ingratitude, and meanness to Great Britain. Such a concession should, as we have said, not even be considered until the present matters in dispute and demands made by Great Britain have all been satisfactorily arranged. When the path has thus been smoothed it may be found possible to come to some workable plan whereby the concession asked by LI HUNG-CHANG may be made.

The Danish Government has appointed Mr. Carl Stahlgren to be Consul at Tientsin. Mr. Stahlgren, who was in China last year, is the head of a Danish company which has been established to do import and export business with China. The head office will be at Tientsin.—*N. C. Daily News.*

A RUSSIAN PORT IN MANCHURIA.

It will be remembered that a Reuter's message, dated the 18th June, stated:—"LI HUNG-CHANG denies the existence of a 'secret treaty between China and Russia,' but admits that a Russian railway will be 'built through Manchuria.'" In the telegram dated 23rd August, Reuter learns "that LI HUNG-CHANG has made no concessions to Russia, but that he has favoured 'a junction of the Amur lines with Manchuria. No Convention had been signed 'and no port ceded to Russia.'" The latter statement is undoubtedly confirmatory of the first, and we may take it for granted that, if no treaty on the subject has been signed, it has been agreed between the two countries that their railway lines shall meet. This is pretty plain to the most casual observer of events in the Far East. The eastern terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railway is therefore not to be Vladivostok, but some Chinese, or rather Manchurian, port on an unfrozen sea. Vladivostok may be good enough for an arsenal and a rendezvous for the vessels of the Pacific Squadron in the summer, when its climate fits it to become a sanitarium for the troops, but it is not an ideal position for the terminus of a vast railway from Europe. The Russians are not prepared to demand all they want at the moment, but they certainly have long indulged the hope that their new great high road across the empire will have for its eastern end a great commercial port as well as a strong fortress capable of keeping open communication by sea the whole year through. There may have been no Convention signed, and it is possible that LI HUNG-CHANG may really think that Russia only desires to connect the Trans-Siberian Railway with the Chinese system in Manchuria, which at present consists of the branch line from Tientsin to Shan-hai-kwan. We have said he may think this, but we credit him with greater perspicuity. He must be very blind if he imagines that Russia will ever be content to have the Pacific end of her great railway in a foreign country. Whether that terminus be in Korea or Manchuria, it will assuredly pass into Russian hands. The probability is that the astute ex-Viceroy foresees this, but with the characteristic procrastination and fatalism of his race he hopes that meantime some fortuitous development of events may occur, as in the case of the retrocession of the Liaotung peninsula to China by Japan, to prevent this disaster. For disaster it would necessarily be to China, as Peking would then inevitably fall under the influence of Russia, and China would lose the very semblance of independence. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" is, unfortunately, the motto of more statesmen than those of Peking, and at the present moment most European statesmen seem incapable of looking forward or working for the future. France especially has given herself over into the keeping of her big ally, whom she fatuously worships, and is ready to do anything that the wisdom of the Bear may suggest. Great Britain has no wish to stand in the way of any laudable ambition of Russia, but as the designs of the latter seem to be dictated by distrust, if not unfriendliness, it is necessary for British statesmen to keep on the alert to see that in the prosecution of Muscovite designs British interests shall not suffer.

At Shanghai on the 21st August a foreigner was severely bitten by a mad dog. Three or four natives were also bitten by the animal, which was afterwards killed.

MR. JOHN ANDREW AND THE TRANSIT PASS TRADE.

From the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce it will be seen that Mr. JOHN ANDREW's claim for loss incurred through the illegal action of the authorities at Wuchow has been satisfied. It will be remembered that Mr. ANDREW took up to Wuchow a cargo of goods under transit pass, but was followed by a small Government steamer sent to warn the merchants that if they had any dealings with him they would be punished. This vessel arrived two days after Mr. ANDREW and before any of the goods had been delivered or paid for, though contracts had been entered into and payment against delivery was to be made next day. The result of the warning was that the merchants who had entered into contracts came to Mr. ANDREW and asked to be allowed to cancel their bargains. The matter was represented to the Consul at Canton and after a good deal of negotiation a proclamation was issued which should have declared that merchants were at liberty to deal freely with Mr. ANDREW, but which, as a matter of fact, after denying that the Government steamer above mentioned had come to Wuchow in connection with the matter, went on to say that merchants were at liberty to trade with Mr. ANDREW, but that as soon as the goods passed into their hands they would be charged with *tekin* and duty again. The matter was again represented to the Consul, and by him to Peking, and in the end the obstruction of the Chinese officials was overcome and the cargo duly disposed of. Mr. ANDREW's venture was an attempt to establish trade under transit pass, and the officials, who in the South have always been bitterly opposed to that system and had hitherto succeeded in setting the provisions of the treaty in that respect at defiance, strained every nerve and used all their tortuous methods to retain their illegal squeezes. The prompt and vigorous action taken by the Consul at Canton, Mr. FRASER, and by Mr. BEAUCLERK, then Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, were, however, effective in breaking down the opposition and securing official recognition of Mr. ANDREW's rights under the treaty. Then came the question of compensation for the loss and delay to which he had been subjected. Mr. ANDREW was detained at Wuchow for over two months and was clearly entitled to compensation, and his claim has now been satisfied. The amount, \$2,182, is a very moderate one and considerably less than we should have expected Mr. ANDREW would have appraised his loss at. What is of more importance than the amount, however, is the comparatively prompt settlement of the claim and the principle it establishes, and the Minister and Consul are to be congratulated on having carried the matter through with so little delay. It is now open to any one, we take it, to convey goods up the West River under transit pass. No doubt the officials will for a time continue to throw every obstacle they can in the way, but Mr. ANDREW's case proves that those obstacles can be overcome by firmness and determination. The same gentleman is now engaged in another venture of a similar kind, and when the officials become convinced that further opposition is useless we may look for the smooth working of the transit pass system. If this be really brought about foreign trade in South China will be much indebted to Mr. ANDREW for having taken such a spirited initiative in the matter and carried it through successfully.

THE INCREASE IN CABLE RATES.

I.

The reasons put forward by the Cable Companies for their recent increase in rates are the reverse of convincing. In the first place they stated that the increase was due to the continued depreciation of silver. To that the reply was that silver had gone up instead of down since the rate was reduced from \$2.30 to \$2. Now they say, in effect, that the reason for the increase is that arrangements have been made with the opposition, which leaves them free to work their monopoly for all it is worth. They say, however, that "as other Telegraph Administrations keep and liquidate their accounts in gold the Companies have of course to make all their outpayments in gold, which has left them with a very small revenue on the homeward traffic and in some cases there has been an actual loss." In the absence of the figures actually paid to the other Administrations it is impossible to say what precise weight should be attached to this statement, as opinions might differ as to what constituted a small revenue, but it must be admitted that some share of the blame for the extortionate policy followed should fall on the Eastern Telegraph Company and the other Administrations with which the Eastern Extension and Great Northern connect. That admission, however, does not lessen the force of the case put forward by the opponents of the increase, because the Telegraph Companies concerned are all in the same ring and those with which we are locally brought into contact aid and abet their colleagues in the policy by which we are made to suffer. With regard to local tariffs, the Companies would have us believe that they are exercising great generosity in charging only 40 cents a word between Hongkong and Shanghai, when at the rate of 15 centimes per word per 100 knots of cable the charge would work out to 55 cents. How exorbitant this charge is will be seen by a comparison with the Atlantic rates, under which a message can be sent over five times the same length of cable for a shilling.

II.

Referring to the comparison made in yesterday's issue between the telegraphic charges across the Atlantic and those between Hongkong and Shanghai, it should be pointed out, in the interests of strict accuracy, that the average length of the Atlantic cables is about 2,500 knots, as against 934 knots, the length of the Hongkong-Shanghai cable. This is not as five to one, being in fact rather less than three to one, but the comparison is still sufficiently striking, a shilling (or say forty-eight cents) a word for 2,500 knots as against forty cents for 934 knots. The local Companies would no doubt argue that the difference in the traffic justifies the difference in the rate, but that is just where issue should be joined with them. With moderate rates the increase in the traffic between this and Shanghai would steadily increase, whereas the tendency of high rates is necessarily to restrict traffic.

In the course of a leading article the *N. C. Daily News* says:—The Chinese Telegraph Administration has been obliged to come to terms with the Cable Companies, after a long and gallant struggle, by Count Cassini's orders, and the foreign community owes to the Russian Minister the increase of 37½ per cent. in the tariff for telegrams to Europe. The British Minister opposed this new Convention in the interest of the commercial community as long as it was possible to do so, and only gave way under the influence which the Cable Companies apparently were able to bring to bear.

ILLEGAL ACTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

In May last Mr. DANBY addressed a letter to the press in which he drew attention to certain proceedings of the officers of the Sanitary Board in connection with the cleansing operations, alleging that their action was in some cases unnecessarily harsh, that partiality was shown, and that he knew "how the oracle was worked." The Board was very indignant with Mr. DANBY—all except Mr. EDE, who to some extent supported him—and it was solemnly resolved "that the Colonial Secretary be requested to furnish the Board with the opinion of the legal advisers of the Crown as to whether any legal steps can be taken with a view to obtaining redress for the apparent misrepresentation made against the Board and its officers in Mr. DANBY's letter." At that time we remarked that the Board had made itself supremely ridiculous in passing such a resolution, and the verdict given on Saturday against the Board in the case brought against that body by one of the sufferers by the high handed proceedings of which Mr. DANBY complained in his letter tends to make them appear in a still more ridiculous light. Mr. DANBY's complaints were treated very cavalierly by the Board at the time, but as to a material portion they have now been proved, to the satisfaction of a jury in a court of law, to have been well founded. It is now established that the Board's officers have in some cases exceeded their duties; whether they have in other cases intentionally neglected their duties, as alleged by Mr. DANBY, and whether a system of "working the oracle" prevailed, still remains to be seen. The Hon. F. A. COOPER, when nothing came of the idea of taking legal proceedings against Mr. DANBY, suggested that a Commission of Inquiry should be appointed. It would be highly satisfactory if the whole matter could thus be cleared up. If the faults that have been committed have arisen merely from an excess of zeal, all that remains to be done, so far as the past is concerned, is for the Government to pay the damages to which the sufferers can prove themselves entitled and caution its officers to be more careful for the future. If, on the other hand, there has been, as alleged by Mr. DANBY, a system of corruption, every effort ought to be made to detect and punish the guilty parties, for the sake of the good name of the service and of British rule. At the best the official Sanitary Board stands discredited so far as its ability for organisation and the exercise of discretion are concerned; but for that we hope a remedy will soon be forthcoming in the entire reorganisation of the Board and the readmission of the popular element. Apart, however, from any question of the reorganisation of the Board, or the honesty of its officers, one lesson clearly appears from the cases that have been recently tried, namely, that should it unfortunately become necessary at any future time to undertake a general cleansing of the town owing to the outbreak of filth diseases, a much closer supervision should be exercised over the operations of the "whitewash brigade" by responsible officers than has hitherto been the case. This year Dr. CLARK was in charge of the work, but he could not possibly exercise personal supervision over the whole of the details; competent lieutenants are required. It is not right that Chinese householders should be placed at the mercy of a constable or other subordinate officer, whose excessive zeal may lead to such occurrences as gave rise to the case tried on Saturday,

even if they remain proof against the temptations to act corruptly that must inevitably be held out to them.

THE JAPANESE AND FORMOSA RELIEF FUNDS.

It was recently stated in our columns that a Mansion House Fund had been started at home for the relief of the sufferers by the Japan tidal wave. That was not strictly accurate; a meeting was held at the Mansion House, and it was presided over by the LORD MAYOR, who, however, in opening the proceedings, explained that "the effort was not a national one, but it was being made by the Japan Society, of which he had the honour of being a member, and a number of friends." The Hon. Secretary read letters at the meeting announcing subscriptions amounting to about £1,300, including £25 from the DUKE of WESTMINSTER, £20 from the DUKE of NEWCASTLE, 10 guineas from the LORD MAYOR, and 1,000 guineas from Mr. A. F. HILLS (chairman of the Thames Ironworks). The meeting was held only a few days before the departure of the last mail and we have no information as to the progress of the subscription, which, however, we have no doubt would be liberally supported, though not so liberally perhaps as if it had been started as a Mansion House Fund proper. We are bound to admit, however, that the circumstances were hardly such as to justify "a national effort." The object is a deserving one, which should appeal in a measure to all who have any connection with Japan or kindly sympathy for the people of that attractive country, but it is a case in which charity might easily have been overdone had benevolence been allowed to override prudence. There are cases of distress which call for relief on a large scale, and others for which a more moderate scale may be held to suffice. The distress arising from the great catastrophe in Japan seems to come within the latter category, and Shanghai, Hongkong, and the foreign communities at the open ports of Japan correctly appraised it as such, contributing liberally but not extravagantly. The catastrophe, it is true, was one of the most awful of modern times, nearly thirty thousand persons losing their lives at one blow; but money cannot bring back the dead, and in matters of relief it is the survivors that have to be cared for. The survivors in this case are for the most part fisher folk, who only want boats and nets to be in a position to earn their living again, and it is wonderful what able bodied and industrious people can do to help themselves in emergencies of that kind. The case is very different from that of a famine, where hundreds of thousands of persons have to be maintained for long periods by charity or allowed to die a lingering and painful death; it is one which undoubtedly called for the exercise of charity, though not charity on the highest scale. The local Funds being now closed, and as the London Fund will no doubt be closed before these lines reach home, we have no fear that what we have said will have any effect in holding the hands of any who might have been disposed to give. It is late enough to speak in the past tense and to say that the China and Japan communities appraised with reasonable correctness the necessities of the case and have no occasion to reproach themselves with having been too niggardly, nor yet to regret having been over-generous. The public at home appealed to by the

Japan Society would doubtless respond to the appeal in an equivalent measure, unless, indeed, sympathy might be somewhat deadened by the accounts of the Japanese atrocities in Formosa, which were then beginning to reach England. The two sets of facts have really no connection with each other, but nevertheless the public mind is apt to be influenced by such coincidences. No one, we are sure, could more regret the outrages committed in Formosa than the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Government. What response has been made by the public to the appeal made by foreigners in Formosa or behalf of the sufferers by the disturbances there we are unable to say, as the subscriptions have not been published, but the attention drawn to the lamentable occurrences has not been without its effect, the Emperor and Empress of Japan having made a generous donation for the relief of the sufferers, which was followed by a grant of 50,000 yen by the Japanese Government. In the one case the appeal was made on behalf of sufferers at the hands, it is alleged, of the Japanese soldiery; in the other the grants were made for the relief of the distress caused by the alleged outrages of the rebels, but in effect it comes to the same thing, and the most satisfactory feature is that the Japanese Government will take effective measures to prevent any recurrence of the painful incidents that reflected so severely on the wisdom and humanity of Japanese rule in the island.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The *Japan Gazette* has been delivering itself on the silver question and it boldly declares that it will be convinced by no amount of reasoning. That, we take it, is the position of most goldites, but not many will make such a frank confession. "No amount of reasoning," says our contemporary, "will ever lead us to the conclusion that by merely stamping sixteen ounces of silver with the imprint of any nation's currency they can be made equal in value to one ounce of gold, when in the market one ounce of gold will purchase thirty-two ounces of silver." That is to say, that in our contemporary's opinion the use of a metal for currency has no effect upon its value, in other words, that in the case of the precious metals values are not determined by demand and supply; which is an altogether untenable proposition. The value of gold is greatly enhanced by its use as currency; demonetise it and its value would fall, just as the value of silver fell upon its demonetisation. Up to 1874 the ratio was maintained by bimetallism, but upon the partial demonetisation of silver the value of that metal as measured in gold declined. Since then the silver market has been sensitive to any rumour affecting the position of the metal as a currency medium, the price rising on any prospect appearing of remonetisation and falling when further demonetisation was in the air. The talk about a fifty cent dollar is as ridiculous as it would be to speak of a forty shilling sovereign. The dollar, whatever its purchasing power may be, will always contain a hundred cents, just as the sovereign, notwithstanding its immense appreciation, still contains only twenty shillings. The *Gazette*, however, seems to think differently and to suppose that cents would remain cents while dollars would become half dollars. If Mr. BRYAN be successful in his candidature for the American Presidency our contemporary opines that "the farmer will have to pay a hundred cents to the mine owner for silver it only costs fifty cents

"to produce." What the farmer would do, if he wanted silver, would be simply to give a hundred cents for a dollar. The silver might cost fifty cents or ninety cents to produce, just as gold from some mines may cost ten shillings to produce and from others nineteen shillings, but a sovereign remains a sovereign all the same.

"Gold," says our contemporary, "is more plentiful to-day than it ever has been, so that it is not scarcity which has appreciated it. We contend that what is called 'the appreciation of gold is merely the effect of competition and invention cheapening production. Let us take an illustration with which all our readers will be familiar. Ten years ago freights from Europe to Japan were as high as forty-five shillings a ton. Then shipping companies were fewer and the wonderful appliances for saving coal and expediting the discharge of cargo, which are now to be found on the cargo steamers, were practically unknown. To-day freights to Europe are less by at least a third. Now is the fact that the sovereign will pay for a third more freight due to the appreciation of gold? Is it not rather that shipowners are content with smaller profits and that improved mechanism enables them to do the same work at cheaper rate? Silver, we are told, remains and has remained steady in value. In other words, in spite of the immense cheapening of production and the marvellous mechanical inventions, silver will only buy as much in commodities to-day as it would twenty years ago when there were fewer manufacturers and less inventions. So that if silver had been the currency and had not appreciated all the profits would have gone into the hands of the capitalists!" It is true that gold is more plentiful to-day than it ever has been, but it is also true that, owing to the increase in the volume of commerce and to the monopoly now enjoyed by the yellow metal as a circulating medium in the chief countries of the world, the work it has to perform has increased more rapidly than the supply; hence its appreciation. The illustration from freights simply tells the same tale as other illustrations of the appreciation of gold, namely, that a sovereign will buy a great deal more than it did formerly, but how that proves that under a different set of circumstances all the profits would have gone into the hands of capitalists we must confess we do not understand. Competition would keep trading profits down to their normal level under one standard as well as under another; but unfortunately the effect of the appreciation of gold has been to increase the burden of all fixed charges, whether on land or industrial undertakings, to the ruin of agriculture and the enrichment of the money lender. In no department have "the immense cheapening of production" and the application of "marvellous mechanical inventions," also chemical applications, been more conspicuous than in mining and metallurgy, so much so that many mines which formerly could not have been worked at all now yield large profits. Yet although a sovereign can be so much more cheaply produced the farmer has to give for it a much larger quantity of wheat than formerly. We must confess that we have become somewhat doubtful of the success of the bimetallic cause, but that the system is theoretically the best and that it was a great mistake to disturb it we are firmly convinced. The difficulty in restoring it seems to turn on the ratio question. If the silver party in America succeeded in carrying their views into effect and re-

establishing the old ratio the sudden alteration in values would produce a commercial cataclysm that would be as disastrous in its consequences as was the original demonetisation of silver, and from that the world may well shrink. If on the other hand, a ratio corresponding approximately to the market rate could be agreed upon, subject to periodical adjustment until the true ratio were arrived at, the boon to international trade and all commercial interests would be immense.

THE JAPANESE AS COLONISERS.

Unlike the Chinese it would seem that the Japanese are not a colonising race. There are not the same inducements to the Japanese to leave their native land that appeal to the Son of Han. The latter finds the struggle to live terribly keen in certain provinces, and is only too glad to betake himself to places where a little more than a bare subsistence can be won by hard industry. Thus we find the Chinese numerous in the Netherlands Indies, the Malayan peninsula, Siam, the Philippines, Borneo, Burmah, Hawaii, &c. They have effected a lodgment on the American Continent, and would have swarmed over the United States and the Australian Colonies had not those countries taken measures to limit their immigration thither. The Chinese emigrants have in many cases done remarkably well, and there has been not only a great trade built up with the mother country, but she has profited materially by the large sums of money remitted by the emigrants to families and relatives. The outlets thus afforded to the surplus population of China have undoubtedly proved a blessing to the Empire, and the countries to which they have resorted have profited considerably by the copious supply of cheap labour thus secured. The Japanese have not the same urgent motives as the Chinese for expatriating themselves. If they do not all live in comfort the struggle for existence is at least less intense, and a small sum suffices for maintenance in thrifty Japan. Moreover, the people are more ardently attached to the soil. They may not be so superstitiously wedded to the idea of returning to it as the Chinese are to the Flowery Land; they are not, we believe, so anxious about their bones being laid in their own country; but they love it more passionately, and with good reason. China is in many parts singularly unattractive, and the towns and cities are sordid, squalid, and uninteresting, in marked contrast to the bright and busy cities of Japan and the lovely scenery in which they are set. The necessity for room for expansion has, too, not yet made itself seriously felt in Japan. This necessity will be made apparent a little later. At present there is little temptation to the masses to leave the land they love so well, *malgré* the terrific convulsions of nature which so frequently work havoc and destruction. So far Japanese emigration has been almost entirely confined to the Sandwich Islands, whither a good many thousands of coolies have gone during the past few years. These emigrants have done fairly well on the Hawaiian sugar plantations, but their numbers do not appear now to be increasing. They do not, we imagine, intend to remain in the islands; they are simply working under contract for a term of years, at the expiry of which they will for the most part return to their own country and invest their savings. They never had any intention of settling down in Hawaii to live, and the alarming rumours which at one time, during the China-Japan

War, found currency about the possible schemes of Japan to acquire the sovereignty of the little republic were both foolish and foundationless.

Seeing that the Japanese are not a colonising people, we are therefore somewhat surprised to read of a scheme by the Agricultural and Commercial Department at Tokyo to promote emigration to Mexico. There is, we must admit, a Japanese Colonisation Society, but how far it is also interested in promoting emigration in behalf of Japanese shipping companies it is hard to say. Probably that has very much to do with its *raison d'être*. It is proposed to acquire by purchase in the state of Chiapas a tract of 300,000 acres of agricultural land, and to plant on this a colony of Japanese agriculturists. The idea is to cultivate coffee, sugar, cotton, and tobacco, and any other produce that will yield a good return. No doubt this plan had its inception in the brain of a steamship company's manager, for the Japanese, until they discovered that carrying coolies to Honolulu afforded profitable employment to the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, did not trouble about the relief of the surplus labouring population. If, however, it is really desired to benefit the labouring classes in over-populated rural districts why does not the Agricultural and Commercial Department advocate emigration on a large scale to Formosa? If Japanese wish to emigrate there is a country recently acquired and close at hand. One half of the island at least is totally uninhabited, with the exception of a few thousand aborigines, and there is room for two or three millions of industrious peasants even if the present Chinese population continues to remain on the island. The true policy of the Japanese Government is to, as far as possible, encourage the Japanisation of the island, but this cannot be done without a steady influx of Japanese. The Japanese were very anxious to obtain the Beautiful Island; and it fell to them as the spoil of war; the world is waiting to see what they will do with it. So far they have done nothing but make mistakes in their administration of the island. Anarchy reigns in many parts, and in none (outside the bounds of the Treaty Ports) is there any visible improvement in the condition of the people or in the prospects of agriculture. The railway system is to be extended and one or two ports are to be made, but these are works that will be carried out for the employment of the Japanese engineers, and though they will benefit the country they are not certain to be followed up by further extensions. There is a danger that the brigands will weary out the patience of the Japanese and cause them to lose all interest in the schemes for improvement, in which case the island would continue to suffer from the same neglect that it received at the hands of the Fukien Government. It is to be hoped the Japanese Government will not weary in the work, but, on the contrary, that the very difficulties which face them will so put them on their mettle that they will strain every nerve to bring about the development of the resources of Formosa and to make it a thoroughly prosperous and contented country.

A Tokyo press despatch states that the laying of the submarine telegraph cable between Kagoshima and Formosa is completed so far as Okinawa and the cable has been tested with satisfactory results. The work beyond Okinawa has been postponed to March next, on account of the dangers of the monsoon season. The work will, however, be resumed as early as possible.

SANATORIUMS FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN CHINA.

The change foreign life in China is undergoing by the discovery of hill sanatoriums and other summer resorts is worthy of remark. Twenty-five years ago a trip to Japan for health or pleasure was hardly thought of; and in Hongkong itself, with the Peak close at hand, the advantages of that healthy district were unutilised. Our ideas of a change of air were then confined to a trip to Macao, where the temperature is much the same as in Victoria, or possibly to Chefoo, the northern watering place. For the most part, however, the residents of those days, both in Hongkong and the Coast Ports, were content during the summer months to stew in their own juice, or, content or not, they had to do it; whereas now we find summer resorts available in various directions. First and foremost we have our own Peak, used not only as a summer resort but for permanent residence and pronounced by the medical faculty to be more healthy even than Japan. The Foochow residents have sought and found relief from the heat of summer at Kuliang, a hill resort only "discovered" within the last few years, and whose benefits are beginning to be appreciated also by the residents of Amoy, one of whom, writing to our Shanghai morning contemporary, waxes enthusiastic in its praise. "When," the correspondent says, "it is stated that the average day temperature is always ten degrees less than below, and the night temperature always nearer seventy degrees than eighty degrees even in July and August, so that a blanket is needed regularly, it is readily seen how great a blessing it is to all who are worn out by the excessive heat of a Chinese summer." Near Kiukiang another summer resort has been opened which is beginning to attract attention at Shanghai and the river ports. This is Kuling, where, according to a correspondent of the *Mercury*, who dates his letter the 10th August, they were "enjoying a perfectly cool European summer climate, in the very heart of China." This correspondent compares the place with the Japanese health resorts, much to the advantage of Kuling. (The similarity of the name with that of the hill near Foochow is apt to cause some confusion.) "Kuling is a broad mountain valley, situated 4,500 feet above the sea, i.e., 3,700 feet above Kiukiang. (Unzen is only 2,500 feet above the sea, Nikko 2,000, Arima 1,400). In my room the thermometer has only once registered 81 degrees; generally the temperature is between 74 and 79 in the daytime and between 71 and 75 at night. In July I had it often 66 degrees. Here one needs no punkah, but several blankets. The mornings and evenings are beautiful. The effect of this climate on people coming from the heat below is marvellous; this year already several people owe their escape from certain death, next to the grace of God, to the healing effect of Kuling. I also saw some children coming up pale and languid and after three days a rosy, healthy colour was rising in their cheeks." Proceeding further north, we find that our friends at Tientsin have just discovered a charming watering place rendered accessible by railway. "For many years," writes a correspondent to the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, "I have supposed that life in North China, whatever advantages it might have, meant starvation to that part of one's mind that hungers after the beauties of nature. But during the past few happy days I have had to reconsider all that. As I write I am sitting

upon the verandah of my cottage on the sea-shore, fanned by the cool sea-breeze, looking upon a landscape of green hills, purple distant mountains, rocky promontories, and a white sea-beach that would be pronounced ideal in any country. It is hard to realize that I am only nine hours distant from Tientsin. The contrast is so great that it seems as though the distance between this earthly paradise and the salt plains of the Pei-ho must be a thousand miles at least." This opening up and development of health resorts in China will go a long way to make residence in the Far East more endurable, and as suitable places readily accessible are found men of business will be more inclined to act on Dr. Cantlie's advice and take frequent holidays. Japan will no doubt continue the most favourite resort, on account of the interesting nature of the country, for those who can afford the time; but it is an advantage to have our field of selection widened, and, more especially, to find places within the reach of those who can only take a week's or fortnight's holiday. For the Hongkong resident, however, Japan is still the most accessible holiday field, but when Formosa is thoroughly settled and opened up no doubt it, too, will come into favour.

SUPREME COURT.

18th August.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

ROBBERY BY A HOUSEBOY.

Li Fook, houseboy, was charged with stealing an umbrella of the value of \$5 and \$220 in money belonging to his master, George A. Buckland, of Quarry Bay.

The Acting Attorney-General (Hon. H. E. Pollock), instructed by Mr. Johnson (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the prosecution, and the prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was undefended.

The jurymen were—Messrs. M. J. Aquino, D. F. C. da Roza, L. E. Ozorio, F. A. Brown, T. Yule, J. Tatam, P. F. do Rozario.

The prisoner was formerly in the employ of the prosecutor at Quarry Bay. On the 3rd September, 1894, prosecutor left his house in the morning and on returning at one o'clock found the place locked up. The prisoner, who was houseboy, had cleared away the breakfast things, but had not touched the bed. Prosecutor had his suspicions aroused and on looking into a drawer where he kept his money found that \$220 had been stolen. An umbrella had also been stolen. Prisoner did not return to the house and he was not seen again until the 29th July last when he was arrested by a Chinese detective.

The jury found the prisoner guilty and he was sent to gaol for ten months with hard labour.

19th August.

ACQUITTED.

Cheung Hing was charged on two counts with taking a girl from the colony for the purpose of emigration on the 5th July last.

Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), prosecuted, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Looker, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), defended.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The following jury tried the case—Messrs. H. W. Slade, C. F. de Carvalho, J. de M. Ozorio, J. S. Ezekiel, E. Ezra, M. S. Northcote, and Mr. Sternberg.

During the hearing of the girl's evidence his Lordship directed the jury to find a verdict of not guilty. The prisoner was accordingly acquitted.

21st August.

THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG GIRLS.

A woman was charged on five counts with offences against the provisions of the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance, 1890.

Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General) prosecuted, and Mr. E. Robinson defended.

The prisoner pleaded guilty to the first count and the Acting Attorney-General said that under the circumstances he applied for a *nolle prosequi* to be entered upon the other counts.

His Lordship consented to this course. In sentencing the prisoner to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour his Lordship said that the offence to which she had pleaded guilty was a very serious one and she was liable to two years' imprisonment with hard labour. She had lived in the colony a long time and must have known that she was doing wrong.

24th August.

Lo Cheuk Lam surrendered to his bail and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him on six counts with offences against the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance of 1890.

Hon. H. E. Pollock, Acting Attorney-General (instructed by the Crown Solicitor, Mr. A. B. Johnson), represented the Crown and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings), defended.

The following gentlemen constituted the jury:—Messrs. J. B. Cousins, S. W. Hayward, C. J. Schmeisser, N. J. Ruchwaldy, C. H. W. Kew, H. J. M. de Figueiredo, and S. F. F. Pereira.

This being the last case of the sessions the Acting Attorney-General asked his Lordship to release the jurors who had not been drawn and they were accordingly dismissed.

The Acting Attorney-General opened the case for the prosecution and explained to the jury the nature of the charges. Evidence was then called in support of counsel's statement.

At the conclusion of the evidence Mr. Francis submitted that there was no case to go to the jury, as the evidence as to the girl's age was not clear and distinct as required by law.

The Acting Attorney-General argued that the case ought to go before the jury. The girl had herself stated that her age was under 16 and the connecting link was her grandmother's evidence on the point.

His Lordship said that on reading the depositions taken at the Police Court he thought that the point raised by Mr. Francis would be brought forward and he had therefore looked up the cases and carefully considered the subject. He was quite aware that difficulties might arise, in regard to the proof of the age of girls, particularly in this country, but he felt bound, reluctantly however, as it was an unsatisfactory way of ending such a case as this, to direct the jury to return a verdict of not guilty. Perhaps the Attorney-General would consider it proper to embody in the local statute an English enactment by which in certain cases a child who appeared to the Court to be under 16 was declared to be under that age unless the contrary was proved.

The jury, therefore, returned a verdict of not guilty and the prisoner was discharged.

The concluded the business of the sessions.

20th August.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

Re CHAN YAT SHUN alias TAK WO TONG, OF
YAUMATI, JUNK OWNER, Debtor Ex parte
SEE TO NAM, A CREDITOR.

His Lordship gave judgment as follows:—In this case a receiving order was made against the debtor, carrying on business as a junk owner, on the 4th October, 1895, and the Official Receiver was appointed receiver of his estate. The public examination was held on the 21st, 25th, and 28th days of November, 1895, and the debtor was adjudicated bankrupt on the 23rd January, 1896. The Official Receiver was appointed trustee in the bankruptcy. The bankrupt not having applied to the Court within

a reasonable time for his discharge, the trustee obtained an order, under section 27 (2) of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, calling upon the bankrupt to come up for his discharge on a specified day. On that day the bankrupt, although duly served with notice of the order and of the day fixed for consideration of the matter referred to therein, did not appear. The Court is therefore fully empowered, under the above-mentioned section, to deal in such manner as it thinks fit with the question of the discharge of the bankrupt. In order to determine this question it is necessary to have regard to the facts proved with reference to the conduct and course of dealing of the bankrupt while carrying on his business. From his statement of affairs, filed on the 20th October, 1895, it appears that the assets of the estate were estimated at \$6,594.45 and its liabilities at \$31,725.50. In the report of the trustee, which was filed on the 22nd July, 1896, it is stated that the assets realized only \$2,864.15, while the debts proved amounted to \$26,368.18. It is clear, therefore, that there was an enormous difference between the assets and the liabilities of the estate. On the days above mentioned the bankrupt was examined at considerable length as to his conduct, dealings, and property. In the course of his examination on the 21st November, 1895, he said:—"I owe \$31,000. I last borrowed money in the sixth month from Chan Tsu-im. I borrowed money when I could not pay it back. I lost the money on every voyage of salt."

For the last three years I have always lost money. The statement of affairs is true. It is all for borrowed money, except \$700." Speaking generally, the remainder of the examination is of the same tenour. In his report the trustee finds as facts "(a.) that the bankrupt continued to trade after knowing himself to be insolvent, and (b.) that the bankrupt contracted debts provable in the bankruptcy without having, at the time of contracting the same, any reasonable or probable ground of expectation of being able to pay them." I am of opinion that these findings correctly set forth the facts of the case. The trustee further states that "he is of opinion that a dividend of 50 per centum will not be payable on the debts proved." Now, it is provided by section 27 (3) of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, that "the Court shall, on proof of any of the facts hereinafter mentioned, either refuse the order of discharge, or suspend the operation of the order for a specified time or grant an order of discharge subject to any such conditions as aforesaid." Amongst these "facts" are the following:—"(a.) That the bankrupt has continued to trade after knowing himself to be insolvent;" "(d.) that the bankrupt has contracted any debt provable in the bankruptcy without having, at the time of contracting it, any reasonable or probable ground of expectation (proof whereof shall lie on him) of being able to pay it;" and "(e.) that a dividend of 50 per centum has not been paid, or will not, in the opinion of the trustee, be payable, on the debts proved." As I have already stated, all these three facts are proved in this case as against the bankrupt. The Court, therefore, has no power to grant his discharge absolutely, but can only either suspend the operation of the order for a specified time or grant an order of discharge subject to certain conditions. I think the merits of the case will be satisfied by suspending the operation of the order for the bankrupt's discharge for a period of twelve months from this date, and accordingly I make an order to that effect. It remains to consider whether or not the penal provisions of the bankruptcy law shall be set in force against the bankrupt. By section 27 (5) of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, amended by section 10 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1892, it is enacted as follows:—"The Court, on proof to its satisfaction of the facts mentioned in (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) respectively of the next preceding sub-section, may summarily sentence the bankrupt to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding one year." As has been already mentioned, of these "facts," two, namely, (c) and (d), have been proved to the satisfaction of the Court, and, having regard to the character of the bankrupt's dealings under these heads and to the fact that

he has not appeared on the hearing of this application and shown any circumstances in mitigation of his fault, I think the bankrupt must be held to have brought himself within the scope of the penal provisions of the Ordinance. I therefore order that he be imprisoned for a term of four months, and I direct that a warrant be issued for his apprehension and commitment.

20th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE) AND A SPECIAL JURY.

WING LI YUEN FIRM V. HON. F. A. COOPER
AND OTHERS.

Plaintiffs sought to recover \$1,000 damages caused by the wrongful acts of the defendants, Hon. F. A. Cooper, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Mr. H. B. H. Lethbridge, Dr. F. W. Clark, Mr. N. J. Ede, and Inspector J. Reidie.

Mr. J. Hastings (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor) represented the defendants.

The following gentlemen constituted the special jury:—Messrs. C. Inchbald, J. B. Dodwell, and E. Osborne.

Mr. Hastings, in addressing the jury, said the plaintiffs' petition was as follows:—

1.—The plaintiffs are a firm of merchants and dealers in Chinese drugs and medicines carrying on business at No. 88, Bonham Strand, Victoria, in the colony of Hongkong.

2.—The defendants, the Honourable Francis Alfred Cooper, John Mitford Atkinson, Henry Bridgman Henderson Lethbridge, Francis William Clark, and Nathaniel Joseph Ede were on or about the 9th May, 1896, members of the Sanitary Board as constituted by Ordinance No. 24 of 1887. The defendant John Reidie is one of the officers of the said Board.

3.—The plaintiffs are the tenants and occupiers of No. 88, Bonham Strand aforesaid and also of portion of the top floor of No. 90, Bonham Strand, and were the owners of certain mezzanine floors and shelves erected therein.

4.—On or about the 9th May, 1896, the defendants or their servants or agents wrongfully and illegally entered upon the plaintiffs' premises aforesaid and caused great damage by pulling down the said mezzanine floors and shelves therein and by taking away and wholly removing the materials of the said mezzanine floors and shelves.

5.—The defendants or their servants or agents also caused great damage to divers valuable goods of the plaintiffs stored within the said premises, and by their acts as aforesaid caused great annoyance and loss to the plaintiffs and materially interfered with and prevented the carrying on of the plaintiffs' business upon the said premises.

6.—On account of the illegal and wrongful acts of the defendants as aforesaid the plaintiffs have suffered damage to the amount of \$1,000. The plaintiffs therefore humbly pray: (1) that the defendants may be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs the said sum of \$1,000 and the plaintiffs' costs of the suit; (2) that the plaintiffs may have such further or other relief as the nature of the case may require.

Dated the 29th day of July, 1896.

The answer of the defendants was as follows:—

1.—The defendants admit the truth of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the petition.

2.—The defendants do not admit the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 3 of the petition.

3.—In answer to paragraph 4 of the petition the defendants admit that their servants acted illegally in removing certain mezzanine floors and shelves from the premises of the plaintiffs and in not returning the same, and they bring the sum of \$100 into Court and say that the same is sufficient to replace the mezzanine floors and shelves in the condition in which they were when removed by the defendants' said servants. Save as aforesaid, the defendants deny each and every of the allegations contained in paragraph 4 of the petition.

4.—The defendants deny that they or their servants or agents caused great or any damage

to any goods whatever of the plaintiffs stored within the premises referred to in the petition. Neither the defendants nor their servants nor agents caused any annoyance or loss whatever to the plaintiffs, nor did they in any manner interfere with or prevent the carrying on of the plaintiffs' business upon the said premises.

5.—The defendants deny that the plaintiffs have suffered any damage whatever in respect of the causes of action set out in the petition, except the sum of \$100 referred to in paragraph 3 hereof.

Dated the 8th day of August, 1896.

Mr. Hastings then explained that on the 9th May the defendants entered the top floor of No. 90 and pulled down a cockloft. But it was in No. 88, Bonham Strand that the greatest amount of damage was caused. In that house mezzanine floors were erected by the plaintiffs for the purpose of storing business goods. There was one cockloft on the ground floor, two on the first floor, and two and a shelf on the second floor. On the 9th May these stores were filled with valuable goods. On the 8th May a police sergeant went to the plaintiffs and gave them notice that on the following day their premises would be cleaned. Later on Inspector Reidie went to the plaintiffs' shop and inspected the premises. He said that the cocklofts on the ground and first floors must come down and that the cocklofts on the second floor must be cut away for a distance of about three feet on one side. He ordered the plaintiffs to do this work before the following morning or else it would be done for them. These orders were entirely illegal and he had no power to give them, but the plaintiffs did not know that and they engaged a carpenter to assist in pulling down the cocklofts. On the next morning, the 9th May, the carpenter commenced work, but about 7.30 or 8 o'clock a gang of men, consisting of an inspector of nuisances, some policemen, some soldiers, and a large number of coolies, went to the house and commenced demolishing the cocklofts. At that time the goods had been removed from the cocklofts of the ground and first floors, but not from the second floor, because it was not known that they would be pulled down, but only a portion cut away. The goods were piled in the street and on the side walk. After cutting off a portion of the cockloft on the second floor the men went away for a time. It then occurred to somebody that enough had not been done and the men returned and said that another piece must be cut off. The goods were piled on one side and another piece was taken off, amounting altogether to about one half of the whole lot. The men went away for a meal and on returning somebody came to the conclusion that the remainder must be pulled down. No time was given to remove the goods, but the floors were pulled up and iron bars removed, the consequence being that valuable goods, including Chinese ginseng and other drugs, fell down amongst the dirt and dust and were trampled underfoot by coolies. Some of the goods in the street were under a large verandah and as the coolies from the Sanitary Board commenced to cleanse the place a large quantity of water was allowed to run off the verandah on to these goods stacked below, causing considerable damage. That was bad enough, but something worse occurred afterwards. On the ground floor there were some extremely valuable goods, including ginseng. Ginseng was a root which grew in Korea and was very valuable, a piece about six inches in length being worth from \$60 to \$70. Some ginseng was stored in tin boxes on the shelves and it struck some of these Sanitary Board officials, for what reason was not known, that the top of the shelves ought to come off. One of the constables thereupon mounted on a box behind the shelves and with an iron bar in his hand beat the top of the shelves in order to take it off. In doing this he shook the boxes and one of them fell down to the floor, a distance of about twelve feet. When ginseng was dry it was very brittle, and that in the box was in this condition, the consequence being that it was seriously damaged. Before the box dropped the contents were worth Tls. 1,000, but the breakage considerably lessened the value. When the plaintiffs heard that their premises were going to be visited they engaged Mr.

Danby, and on the morning of the 9th May he visited the premises about 8.30 a.m. and saw the condition of the place. On his return he reported the matter to Mr. McCallum and they then went with Mr. Ede and inspected the premises, but at that time the damage had been done. The Sanitary Board was a properly constituted authority possessing legislative powers, but the Board had no immunity from the ordinary laws of the colony. They had to act within their powers, and if they acted unlawfully they were liable in damages in the same manner as other persons. In the matter of cocklofts the Board appeared to have entirely misapprehended their powers. They had entered these houses and many other houses in the colony and pulled down cocklofts therein. One would have thought that before doing so they would have taken care to see if they were justified. As a matter of fact they had not the least justification for pulling down or interfering with cocklofts. The proper course was provided by law. By-law 22, made by the Board themselves under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, gave the Board power to cleanse and disinfect premises. It did not require the least argument to show that the words "cleanse and disinfect" did not include or convey any power to pull down portions of premises and take them away or destroy them. Indeed that point had been held in another case which was lately heard in Court. It was then decided that the words "cleanse and disinfect" did not include the power to pull down and take away any materials. Counsel had not gone into the question of whether the cocklofts were legal or illegal. He did not know nor did he care if they were illegal; their illegality did not give the Board power to interfere with them. Under the Ordinance the Board were bound to apply to the Magistrate, get a decision on the matter, and have the cocklofts removed by his order. The defendants did not adopt that proper course. They took upon themselves the right of deciding a point which ought to have been decided by the Magistrate; indeed they did more than that. They did not decide the point themselves, but allowed it to be decided by an irresponsible constable who was on the spot. In their answer the defendants had admitted that their action was illegal. The law was that if a man abused an authority given to him to enter premises he became a trespasser from the beginning and was liable for damages done by him. The defendants had paid \$100 into Court and therefore the action really resolved itself into a question of assessment of damages. It was for the jury to say whether the \$100 paid into Court was sufficient to compensate the plaintiffs for the damages they had suffered. The damages were divided into three items, the principal one being damage to goods chiefly consisting of ginseng, the second item was damage to cocklofts, and the third was damage for trespass and interference with business. The goods had been inspected by a gentleman in the employment of a well-known European firm in the colony and he would say what was the value of the goods in a sound state. They had been sold by auction and evidence would be called as to what they fetched. The jury were not bound down, in assessing damages, by the actual amount of the damage suffered. In cases of entering another man's house the jury had power to give damages beyond the actual value of the damage suffered and sufficient to compensate for the trouble, inconvenience, and loss caused by the defendants. The plaintiffs claimed \$1,000 damages, that amount being the utmost in the jurisdiction of the Court, but the damage to the goods amounted to \$1,024 and the damage to the cocklofts \$143, so if the jury came to the conclusion that plaintiffs proved their damages on these two points it would not be necessary to consider the damages caused through the trespass.

Li Yuen, one of the partners in the Wing Li Yuen firm, bore out the opening statement as to the action of the Sanitary Board officials and the amount of the damage done. Since the cocklofts were removed their trade had declined, as there was not sufficient space to keep the necessary quantity of goods.

The witness was cross-examined by Mr. Johnson as to the value of the ginseng and he adhered to the amount of damages mentioned in the opening statement.

Lai Yuen, another partner in the firm, and other witnesses also gave evidence of the value of the cocklofts and ginseng.

Mr. J. M. Armstrong, auctioneer, spoke to selling the ginseng for \$394.37.

Mr. W. Danby, architect, said that on the 8th May last, about 5 p.m., the plaintiffs met him in Queen's Road and told him the cleaning gang were going to their premises on the following morning. Witness went to the place at 8.30 next morning, when there was considerable excitement. He saw a crowd of coolies and a number of soldiers there, and goods were piled up outside. Coolies were then cleaning the verandah and the water fell over the verandah on to the goods. Some water fell on witness and he had to send home for a new suit of clothes; therefore he knew the water was very dirty. Bags of nutmegs were being dragged down the steps, somebody was shouting "Keep clear below" and witness had to tell them to stop, so that he could get upstairs. He saw the cocklofts being removed. He should not call the wood dirty, nor would he call it clean; it was dusty. He felt very much annoyed at the high-handed manner in which the work was being done and afterwards reported the matter to Mr. Ede, and said that the persons concerned were Chinese merchants and not coolies. Witness and Mr. Ede afterwards saw Mr. McCallum.

Mr. F. Jorge, salesman for Messrs. Shewan & Co., who has had considerable experience in ginseng transactions, spoke to the value of the ginseng in the box which fell down from a shelf in 88, Bonham Strand.

In answer to the court witness said that the ginseng was valued at \$1,400 on the 8th May. If it had been sold three or four days after it was injured it would have fetched about 50 per cent. more than \$394. Witness did not see the ginseng until the 27th July, when it was damp and dirty.

This completed the case for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Johnson, in addressing the jury, said the defendants had only indirectly admitted the illegality of the entry. Although the law was not strictly complied with, the entry was perfectly *bona fide* and was necessary considering the state of the neighbourhood and the town, and considering that the plague was raging. If application had been made to the Magistrate he (Counsel) ventured to submit that at least two of the cocklofts would have been condemned. The fact that the entry was *bona fide* should certainly influence the jury when considering the question of damages. The defendants had made careful valuations and the \$100 paid into Court amply covered the amount of damage. The sum would not put back the cockloft in the original position, but in a position which would make the plaintiffs better off than they were at first. In regard to the other items of damage counsel proposed calling witnesses to show that the defendants did not destroy the plaintiff's goods and it was not the Sanitary Board coolies who washed the verandah.

Dr. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, said that the district embracing Bonham Strand, was declared an infected area on the 27th February last. In his opinion it was necessary to remove the plaintiffs' cocklofts, as they were removed in order to properly cleanse the premises.

Cross-examined—The inspector ordered the removal of the cocklofts. Witness knew that one of them was in a rotten and dangerous condition. In this case he did not consider that the proper course to take was to cleanse and disinfect the cocklofts before taking them away. The bulk of the wood was so dirty that it could not be cleansed at all. As far as he knew, no attempt was made to cleanse the cocklofts; they could not be cleansed without being removed.

By the jury—The plaintiffs had ample opportunity for cleansing the place before the gang arrived.

Inspector Reidie said he received instructions last April to make a house-to-house visitation and to cleanse and whitewash premises which were dirty. He gave orders for the plaintiffs' cocklofts to be removed. He did not see any goods exposed to damage.

In answer to the jury witness said that he told the plaintiffs between 4 and 5 o'clock on the 8th May that the premises would have to be cleansed and the cocklofts removed. If the work was not done by the following morning

the Sanitary Board would do it themselves. The plaintiffs had also been warned two hours earlier. Witness considered that the time allowed was sufficient. The Sanitary Board coolies did not wash the verandah; they simply carried away wood.

By Mr. Hastings—Witness ordered the removal of the cocklofts because they were dirty and because those on the ground and first floor were illegal.

The case was not concluded when the Court rose.

22nd August.

After further evidence had been called Mr. Johnson addressed the jury for the defence, and speaking on the question of damages denied that the Sanitary Board coolies washed the plaintiffs' verandah.

Mr. Hastings then addressed the jury on behalf of the plaintiffs and said the defendants by their pleadings admitted their liability in taking down the cocklofts, and having paid a sum of money into Court the question before the jury was that of the amount of damages to be awarded for the illegal and unlawful acts done by the defendants. With regard to the damage to the goods he contended that it was actually done by the defendants or their servants. Did the jury think, as the defendants would have them believe, that it was a "trumped up" case brought for the purpose of "squeezing" money out of the Government? He submitted on behalf of the plaintiffs that they were a respectable body of merchants, and the jury would further notice—a circumstance which they would not find in the defendant's case—that independent evidence had been brought corroborating their statements. There was a very material difference between the nature of the evidence of the plaintiffs and the evidence called on the other side; if the damage was done it was done by the defendants' men. Mr. Hastings then referred to the damage done to the goods and the interruption caused to the plaintiffs' business. Great annoyance and inconvenience had been caused by the removal of half the storage capacity of the shop. It was impossible to put the damage into figures and he would leave the jury to estimate, as business men, what was a fair sum to grant.

His Lordship, in addressing the jury, said they were doubtless very glad to have come to the conclusion of this important case. This was an action brought to recover from the Sanitary Board damages to the extent of \$1,000 for trespass. Trespass was constituted by any wrongful interference with a person's possession of land or property. If a man went to a house by lawful authority and whilst he was in that house did no harm he did not become a trespasser, but if having gone into the house under lawful authority he committed a misfeasance he became a trespasser from the very beginning. The defendants in this case had a right to order certain parties to enter No. 88, Bonham Strand, and it was alleged that while there these parties abused the right and became trespassers. Coming to the evidence, he said the jury must distinguish between this and criminal cases. In a criminal case the evidence must be such as to leave no reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the prisoner, but in civil cases the jury must be guided by the balance of evidence, and if the balance appeared to be in favour of either side that side was entitled to the verdict. Damages must follow directly and naturally from the illegal acts of the defendants in removing these cocklofts; but the evidence as to the cocklofts, shelves, etc., removed was contradictory, the defendants denying that they removed one cockloft on the first floor of No. 88, Bonham Strand and also a cockloft and ceiling on the top floor of No. 90, Bonham Strand. Mr. Danby said that when he got to the top floor of No. 90 early in the morning he found that one cockloft and ceiling were there, but when he got there in the afternoon he saw they had been removed. The evidence on the other side was distinctly to the effect that these things were never removed by the instructions of the Sanitary Board. The jury would have to say, on weighing all the circumstances, which side was in the right. In regard to the damage to goods his Lordship said that the damage

must be directly, necessarily, and naturally caused by the illegal acts of the defendants. Some of the ginseng had been thrown into the road and damaged by water dripping on it. One side said the coolies of the Sanitary Board caused this damage and the other alleged that it was the plaintiffs' own coolies. If the jury were satisfied this dripping of water was the result of the acts of the plaintiffs' servants of course the plaintiffs would be entitled to no damages on that account, but if the jury thought the coolies of the Sanitary Board caused the damage through their acts and negligence then the plaintiffs would be entitled to some compensation. It was admitted by the plaintiffs that some of their coolies had been working there early in the morning washing down the place, but the work was not being done quickly enough to satisfy the Sanitary Board people, who took the job in hand themselves. Mr. Danby, in his evidence, said that he arrived there at 8.30, and found the coolies washing the place, but he also stated that he saw a man in khaki. His Lordship left it to the jury to infer whether this man belonged to the Sanitary Board or not. On the other side it was denied that their coolies were there at all at that time, and there was also the statement of the defendants' witnesses that no coolies were there before ten o'clock in the morning. It was for the jury to reconcile these two statements and say which of them was to be believed. With regard to the tin of ginseng, it was alleged that it was knocked down by Police Constable 103, who took a crowbar and proceeded to break down some shelves, causing the tin to fall down and the contents to be damaged. P.C. Gourlay, however, while admitting that he went there to remove a shelf with a crowbar, denied that he knocked down any tin, while the Acting Corporal denied distinctly that Gourlay used a crowbar at all. There was also a great discrepancy as to the time P.C. Gourlay was there, and the jury would have to say which side they believed; they would probably come to the conclusion that the European witnesses were more to be relied upon than the Chinese in the shop. As to the goods in the cockloft it was for the jury to say how those goods were stored and whether the action of the Sanitary Board in pulling down the cockloft in any way dislodged those goods and caused them to be damaged. He had to put this question to the jury—Was it likely that Gourlay went behind these shelves and knocked off the top shelf without looking to see whether there any goods left? One of the plaintiffs' witnesses said that he pointed out these goods and the man said, "It does not matter," while another witness said they could not get the permission of the Sanitary Board to remove the goods from the shelves. It was a fair question for the jury to consider whether the Sanitary Board would have proceeded to take down the shelves or cocklofts while the goods were there. In regard to the damage to the cocklofts and ginseng the jury must give what damages they thought would compensate the plaintiffs for injuries received in that respect. As to the value of the cocklofts his Lordship pointed out that a Chinese carpenter estimated the value of the whole lot at \$143, whereas Mr. Crook's estimate (excluding the big cockloft on the second floor, which was valued by Mr. Turner at about \$20, and some other minor details, bringing the whole amount up to \$96) amounted to \$71.73. It was for the jury to decide which of these two estimates was likely to be the correct one. He then referred the jury to the evidence of Mr. Jorge (of Messrs Shewan, Tomes and Co.), an expert in that branch of the business, whose estimate of the damage to the ginseng was practically the same as that given in the particulars of claim. The jury had also to consider whether the amount of \$300 claimed by the plaintiffs for loss of business in consequence of the action of the Sanitary Board, was a reasonable amount. No doubt the plaintiffs were put to some inconvenience, but it was for the jury to say to what extent they suffered inconvenience by reason of their own dillatoriness in not carrying out the instructions of the Sanitary Board themselves. The most difficult part of the case, the only part which involved any law, was that respect-

ing damage by trespass. The law was that wherever a trespass takes place, even if no damage was done at all, the person whose land or goods have been trespassed upon was entitled to damages of some kind or other. He was entitled to nominal, ordinary, substantial, or vindictive damages. After quoting various authorities on the law of trespass his Lordship said the jury were quite at liberty to take into consideration the whole of the circumstances connected with this entry; whether the entry was malicious, whether it was outrageous, whether it was vindictive, whether it was oppressive, all these things they could take into their consideration when assessing the amount of damages which they would allow for the actual trespass. If they found that this trespass was *bona fide*, that the work was not negligently done, that there was no malice in the matter, that the parties were more or less in one sense, though not legally, justified in what they did; if they thought the notice the plaintiffs received was adequate—and in considering that question they must bear in mind that notice was given between two and three o'clock on the previous afternoon, that the whole of the operations were conducted by a much larger staff than could be got by the plaintiffs, and concluded in two or three hours next day—if they considered that plaintiffs must have been aware by the presence of gangs working round them that their houses were to be visited, and they ought to have prepared for the visit (and they had also to bear in mind that the occupier of the premises adjoining No. 55 came along and found out what he would have to do when his turn came)—if they considered that no unnecessary force was used, that the parties were not unduly annoyed, they would simply give nominal damages for the trespass. If they thought it was necessary, on account of the behaviour of the Sanitary Board, to make an example by making the defendants pay what was sometimes known as "smart money," then the damages were practically in their own hands; but the whole amount must not exceed \$1,000, as that was the limit of the damages that could be awarded in the Summary Jurisdiction Court.

Mr. Dodwell—Is it necessary to give separate headings for the damages, or a lump sum?

His Lordship—I think a lump sum will do.

The jury then retired, and on returning after an absence of 35 minutes,

Mr. Inebald said—We find unanimously for the plaintiffs, and by a majority assess the damages in a lump sum of \$500.

Mr. Hastings—Will your Lordship give judgment for the plaintiffs for \$500 and costs of action?

His Lordship—I give judgment for \$500 and costs. I am much obliged to you, gentlemen, for the care which you have given to this case. I think I am justified in saying that you will not be called upon as special jurors in the Summary Jurisdiction for the next six months.

OUTRAGE ON A HONGKONG SHOOTING PARTY.

HARD FIGHTING AGAINST ODDS.

A party of Hongkong gentlemen had a most unpleasant quarter of an hour's experience on Sunday afternoon. They were, without provocation, attacked in a most shameful manner near Deep Bay by a large body of Chinese villagers, and it is to be hoped that the matter will be speedily reported to the Chinese officials in order that due punishment may be awarded the offenders and outrages of this kind, which unfortunately are not uncommon, be effectually put an end to. Six Hongkong gentlemen started on Saturday afternoon for Deep Bay for snipe shooting. The party went on shore on Sunday morning in a sampan and they engaged three men for the day, one to carry the tiffin basket and the other two to carry the ammunition. In a short time the party separated in pairs and nothing happened to break the peace of the outing until the afternoon, when one or two pellets from one of the guns happened to strike the man who was carrying the refreshments, but only one of them caused a scratch and that a very slight one. The man

showed no signs of pain, he was at once attended to, and was then given \$2 as a solatium, that amount being all the gentleman concerned in the accident had with him, but a promise of another dollar upon reaching the launch was given. With this compensation he was perfectly satisfied and apparently he was really none the worse for the slight bruises; indeed for an hour afterwards he continued to carry the basket and showed no signs of fatigue. It was not until he met his two fellow carriers that he shirked his work, so it is probable that he related the circumstances of the incident to his companions and mentioned the amount which had been given to him, and they doubtless reproached him for accepting what they perhaps said was paltry compensation. At any rate he went away, but the Hongkong gentlemen had not the faintest idea that serious trouble was to follow. Towards five o'clock they all returned to the beach for the purpose of setting off for home and, very fortunately as it happened, they met another shooting party, consisting of four gentlemen, who were also returning to their launch. On arriving at the beach the ten gentlemen found a gang of quite sixty villagers waiting to give them a warm reception. Evidently the man who was shot had apprised the whole village of the shooting incident and they had now turned up determined, if possible, to get their share of compensation. It seems to be one of the established ethics amongst natives in cases of this kind to enforce smart money sufficient to provide the whole village with free board and lodging for six months as a reparation for a trivial personal injury to one of their number. In the present instance, however, the natives' little scheme was shattered by the plucky fighting of the ten men against a howling mob, which increased in numbers every minute. The natives were armed with bamboos and their threatening attitude soon convinced the shooting parties that they would have a stiff encounter before reaching the launch again. The mob demanded money; the demand was instantly refused. The natives then produced ropes and rushed at the gentleman who had shot the man with the object of binding his legs and arms, and before they were beaten off his gun and hat were wrested from him, but they did not succeed in fixing the ropes on his body. There was now a most exciting scrimmage. Bamboos were freely used, guns damaged, and many blows were given and returned. The ten men struggled their hardest and not a few of the natives were hurled with considerable force on to the soft mud and ignominiously rolled in it. The fighting lasted a quarter of an hour altogether, and then the wild mob, seeing that they could not hold their own with all their numbers, scattered themselves in all directions, leaving the gallant little party masters of the situation. But the victors had not escaped scot free. Their clothing was torn and damaged, most of the guns were rendered useless, and they were generally in a sad plight as they reached their launch once more. They arrived in Hongkong about 10.30 on Sunday night. This is certainly a case which the Chinese officials should be compelled to deal effectively with, as at present a shooting party cannot land anywhere on the mainland without feeling that they are risking their lives.

AFFAIRS IN FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]
TAIPEHU, 15th August.

The reports that have been circulating in the north regarding the Mid-Formosa rebellion are as legion as they are contradictory. It is with the hope of gaining a closer insight into the true condition of affairs that I am leaving to-morrow morning for a several weeks' trip through the lately disturbed districts. Unfortunately there has not been much of an attempt made to get at the facts, the enemies of the Japanese seemingly being satisfied in accepting the Chinese reports as authentic, and the Japanese and their new friends inclined to stamp the same reports as exaggerated, if not falsehoods without a semblance of truth. That many innocent people have suffered during the trouble is a point upon which they both agree, but whether such suffering could have

as a consequence of war been prevented or not is where they differ. At all events the affair was not of such seriousness or of such magnitude as one would be led to believe after reading the voluminous reports that have been published during the last month, the editor of one journal bring so far deceived as to express editorially that the whole island was seething with rebellion. It touched the district in which the foreign merchants of Anping have camphor interests, subjecting them to a heavy loss. This has led to a thorough ventilation of the subject, which may be fortunate in the respect that it will lead to a careful investigation.

The insurgents have all fled to the mountains. Those about Tai-ping-ting are supposed not to exceed two or three hundred in number. At present one battalion is garrisoned at Hoonlin and another at Lim-ki-po. These troops hold the insurgents in their mountainous strongholds, cutting off all communication with the outside. Tai-ping-ting has the savage territory to the rear and a steep rocky pathway from the plain below is the only entrance. As a stronghold it is almost impregnable and with provisions and ammunition could be held against a considerable force of invaders for an unlimited time. There are some few small tracts of cultivated land within their enclosure, yet not sufficient to afford the required food. Formerly this clan, who were but a little better than banditti, resorted to Lim-ki-po, the village in the plain below, during times of peace and retreated to their mountainous resorts upon the approach of danger. Under the Chinese Government it is said that the prefecture of Hoonlin, which was originally established at Lim-ki-po, was so often threatened with plunder and attack that it was thought best to remove it to Tau-lak.

Now that the Japanese have garrisoned the village, shutting off the rebels from supplies, the latter have made several attacks upon them. The latest report received from Tai-chung (Taiwanfu) states that on the morning of the 9th inst. the rebels opened up a continued fire on the Japanese sentinels stationed at Lim-ki-po; also during the darkness of early morning a few shots were fired at the sentinels at close range, the rebels retreating to the south. It will be the policy of the Japanese to guard these places carefully and to attack the rebels when they are eventually forced to evacuate their strongholds from want of food. Major-General Tachimi, Commander of the troops in Formosa, returned to the capital on the 12th, after being satisfied of the thorough routing of the rebels. At an interview I had with him on his arrival I gained some information regarding affairs in the south. The causes of the rebellion he thought were not difficult to account for. The Chinese who started the rebellion no doubt found it easier to live under the Chinese than the Japanese Government. It was a well-known fact that many of the bands who took the lead in the late trouble had never been thoroughly subjugated by the Chinese authorities and in certain districts it had been the custom to pay tribute to these robber bands. For such classes to come under the laws of any government would be to sacrifice the life of ease they were enabled to live as a result of their raids. The worse part of this was that these banditti often forced the country people to join them in opposing the Japanese. The poor country people not having the force to resist were obliged to desert their homes and fields to carry on a conflict with which they had no sympathy. In answer to the report published in the Japanese papers that certain foreigners had supplied the rebels with ammunition, the General informed me that he was unable to account for its origin. In examination of the prisoners it was found that the rifles were either those that had been distributed by or secured from the Chinese troops or had been in the possession of the rebels for a long time. One prisoner had claimed that he had received powder from a foreigner, but there was no evidence to support this nor any reason to believe that, if secured from that source, it had not been procured before the arrival of the Japanese, as it was formerly found necessary to protect themselves against the savages. The General expressed his dissatisfaction with the commander of the troops at Hun-lin, who he thought de-

serted his camp when he might have held it until reinforcements arrived. While the rebels were considerable in numbers they were sparsely provided with weapons, from one-fifth to one-half only of their number possessing fire-arms. No doubt the officer referred to, seeing a comparatively great number advancing, overestimated their strength, and fearing that his troops might be surrounded and communication cut off withdrew to a safer district. Of a different metal was the commander of the troops at Nantow, for with only 200 men he held his post against the attack of four times the number of rebels for four days, when reinforcements arrived to release him.

Fighting in the interior is specially difficult, for the irregularity of the ground, the numerous plots of underbrush and jungle, offers an opportunity for guerilla warfare which could be scarcely equalled.

As to the Chinese report of an engagement sent by a correspondent from the south, in which it was stated that the Japanese loss was 200, I refer to the records at headquarters, which gives the total loss up to the present day:—

	Wounded.	Killed.	Total loss.
Officers	13	7	20
Sub-officers	22	6	28
Soldiers	114	53	166
Gendarme officer ...	1		
„ Sub-officers 2 }		14	24
Gendarmes 7 }			
Policemen } 7		2	9
Civilians }			
Native coolies ... 2			
Total	168	82	247

* 1 drowned.

The Chinese loss has not been ascertained. Several villages in which the residents have taken part in the rebellion have been burnt. In these districts there were many innocent people who necessarily suffered as a result of the rebellion. With such people Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan have shown their sympathy by graciously presenting 3,000 yen to be distributed among them. 50,000 yen for the same purpose will follow from the state funds. This amount is more than an abundance and it is hoped that the Chinese in their ignorance and simplicity will not receive it with the idea that it has been given by the donors through fear and that all that is necessary to receive a similar amount is to rebel again.

A report appeared in the *Kokumin Shimbun* from its Formosa correspondent at Changwha under date of 10th July, which was generally copied in the foreign papers, stating that Li Chung Sing (Li-shun-sei), the well-known merchant of the north, was of doubtful loyalty to the Japanese and even going so far as to state that he had aided the rebellion. To the higher Japanese officials and to the foreigners who are acquainted with this most estimable gentleman it is unnecessary to state that the whole report is a lie plain and unvarnished. What the petty Japanese, who give life to such reports expect to gain by it is difficult to imagine. But at the present time, while the island is slightly disturbed, to circulate such reports is criminal and should be considered as such, for the loss of liberty and even life of the perfectly innocent is endangered by them.

JAMES WHEELER DAVIDSON.

H. R. MAJESTY AND THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE.

H.E. the Governor has received the following despatch from the Secretary of State:—

Downing Street,
17th July, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 134 of the 3rd ult. enclosing papers and photographs relative to the ceremony of unveiling the statue of the Queen which has been erected upon the Praya reclamation.

Your despatch and its enclosures have been seen by Her Majesty, who has read the account of the proceedings with interest and satisfaction and has kept some of the photographs which you were good enough to send and for which I am commanded to thank you. I have, &c.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.

THE PO LEUNG KUK.

The annual report of the Po Leung Kuk Society is published in Saturday's *Gazette*, from which we make the following extracts:—

Arrangements were entered into with the Tung Wa Hospital regarding the ground on which it was desired to erect the buildings for a Home and part of which was occupied by the Kwong Fuk Temple and by the hospital dispensary. The temple was pulled down and rebuilt on a portion of its former site and on a piece of ground purchased from the Government for a sum of \$1,585.50. The dispensary has been enlarged and two storeys have been added to it to be used by the Po Leung Kuk. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Lo Chi-tin, the Chairman of the Tung Wa Hospital, and to the other Directors for their co-operation. The services of Mr. Denison were engaged to draw up plans for the new buildings, their internal arrangements being placed more immediately under the supervision of the elected Committee, the members of which devoted a great deal of time and trouble to the work. Work was commenced on the temple in September and up to the end of the year \$2,000 had been expended on it. The new buildings of the Po Leung Kuk were commenced in November, and it is hoped, that it will be possible to enter into them during the current year.

At a meeting held on the 29th August it was resolved to engage a matron to be in charge of the inmates. Mrs. Victor was engaged on probation for one month, and at the end of that time her engagement was confirmed. She keeps her charges in good order and has given satisfaction.

During the year Mr. Coughtrie was appointed a Visiting Justice in place of Mr. Thurburn, and when Mr. Coughtrie left the colony, Captain Anderson was appointed in his place. Mr. Wei Ayuk was also appointed a Visiting Justice, and he, Mr. Ho Fook, and Captain Anderson visited the premises of the Society at regular intervals.

Before concluding, mention must be made of the Benevolent Societies at Canton, Macao, and other places, without the hearty co-operation of which it would be impossible to carry on effectively the work of the Society.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DESTITU- TUTES DEALT WITH BETWEEN THE 1ST APRIL AND THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1895.

Married	22
Adopted	5
Died	2
Sent home—Males	160
Sent home—Females	155
Destitutes still in charge of the Society	
—Women and Children	41

THE STRANDING OF THE "GAELIC."

Shimonoseki, 14th August.

At daylight, on the 13th August, as the O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Perne, was approaching Shimonoseki she unfortunately got ashore. Captain Wilson Walker was the pilot in charge. She was drawing 24 feet, and the tide was about half ebb, and it was running with unusual force (the ebb tide runs in by here into the Inland Sea). About 6 a.m. she was steaming through the Oseto, which channel sweeps in a long horseshoe curve round the south side of Hikusima. She had passed the Narusi Rock, or Green Beacon, and while rounding Kibuni Point under her starboard helm to clear Yodsibi Shoal she unfortunately ran down a junk, and on the ship being stopped to render assistance, the very strong ebb tide caught her on the port side and swept her on the Yodsibi Shoal, where she grounded, close to the Red Beacon. The pilots say this shoal is mostly gravel, and although no great anxiety was felt just at the time, all the boats were quietly swung out and lowered to the rail. The ship seemed to hang a little aft of midships, and as her bow fell with the tide she rested on something hard a little forward of the engine-room compartment. The back stays of the mainmast snapped, the mast being forced up about four inches, and water was reported in the second hold. Capt. Pearne, seeing now that the accident was a serious one, decided to land mails and passengers. Mr. Wallace,

of Messrs. Holme, Ringer & Co., witnessing the accident from Bakan, went down in his launch and rendered valuable aid in procuring native craft to take off the fifteen foreign and some two hundred odd native passengers. After the tide had turned and the water had risen a little the engines were worked full speed astern, and at 11 a.m. she backed off and, steaming round to the west side of Hikusima, she was beached on soft sloping sand close to Hama Island, about four miles off the place of the accident. She was perfectly safe here, having the Hama Bank on the seaward side, which would make an excellent breakwater in case of bad weather. As she grounded on the beach she had 12 feet of water in the second hold and drew 27 feet forward. Several small steamers, sailing vessels, and junks were waiting to discharge her, and night and day the work has been carried on with great energy. At night under all her electric lights she looked like a small city. This evening the last of the silk and sugar was discharged, and there remains only some general cargo and her coals, of which she had taken a full supply for the voyage at Nagasaki. This afternoon her own pumps had gained on the water, and to-morrow it is proposed to shift her farther up the beach. A steamer with wrecking pumps and divers has left Nagasaki and the *Gaelic* will very probably be soon on her way to the dock. The foreign passengers were put up at Japanese hotels in Bakan and Moji and will proceed in the morning to Kobe by the *Genkai Maru*.

This is a pure accident and much sympathy must be felt for Captain Perne, and also for Captain Walker, an old officer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, who has a very long and successful record in Japanese waters.—N. C. Daily News correspondent.

THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the Committee held at the Chamber rooms on the 19th inst. there were present:—Messrs. A. McConachie (Chairman), H. Smith (Vice-Chairman), Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, G. B. Dodwell, N. J. Ede, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelsen, N. A. Seibs, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting and of a special meeting held 15th August were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

Messrs. Jebson & Co. and Messrs. Radecker & Co. were elected members of the Chamber.

IMPORT DUTIES IN CHINA.

Read letter from Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, dated June 22nd, acknowledging receipt of Chamber's letter of 19th May enclosing copy of letter to British Minister on above subject.

Also letter from Hon. Sec., Hongkong branch of China Association, dated 18th August, enclosing telegram to London on subject.

BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1897.
Read letter from London Chamber of Commerce, dated 3rd July, stating that they had accepted invitation to assist in organising a British section of above, and asking Chamber to co-operate to obtain local exhibits.

Resolved to publish letter, and to reply stating what had been done.

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER

On the 4th inst. letters were addressed to the Foreign Office and to the British Minister at Peking, asking whether there was any progress to report in the negotiations for the opening of the West River and other inland waterways of Kwangtung to trade and steam navigation. Copies of both were also forwarded to Hongkong Government.

QUARANTINE AGAINST HONGKONG.

On the 28th July, a letter having been addressed to the Government by the Chamber calling attention to the steady decline of the plague and asking when clean bills of health could be granted to steamers leaving hence, a letter had been received from the Colonial Secretary, dated 8th inst., announcing that clean bills of health were issued on the 7th inst. and telegrams to that effect despatched to Singapore, Manila, and Shanghai. Quar-

antine in Singapore and examination in Shanghai have since been dispensed with.

MR. JOHN ANDREW'S CLAIM.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 12th August, informing Chamber that the Canton Government had paid to British Consul at Canton the sum of \$2,182.52, amount of claim preferred by Mr. Andrew for loss incurred through the illegal action of the authorities at Wuchow-fu.

THE HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT.

A letter having been despatched to the Government on the 4th August, drawing attention to certain inaccuracies in the trade statistics given by the Harbour Master in his report for 1895, a reply was received, dated 13th August, from the Colonial Secretary, acknowledging same, and bespeaking the Chamber's assistance for the Harbour Master in compiling his returns.

Resolved to reply to effect that the Chamber would be willing to lend such assistance were they not precluded from doing so by want of exact figures, the information furnished in the Chamber's letter being estimates only based on the experience of persons connected with the trade.

SPECIAL GAP ROCK LIGHT TAX.

A letter was addressed to the Colonial Secretary, dated 14th August, calling His Excellency the Governor's attention to the pledge given by his predecessor that when the purpose for which the Special Gap Rock Light Tax of 1½ cents per ton was fulfilled the same would be abolished, and asking for this undertaking to be carried into effect.

Read reply from Colonial Secretary, dated 14th August, stating the matter was receiving the attention of the Government.

THE INCREASED TELEGRAPH CHARGES.

Consequent on a resolution passed at a special meeting of the Committee, held on the 1st August, to consider the revised tariff of charges issued by the Joint Telegraph Companies on the 31st July, telegrams were despatched that afternoon to Shanghai, Yokohama, Singapore, and Saigon Chambers to the following effect:—

"Hongkong Chamber protesting vigorously against increased telegram charges," with additions, in case of Shanghai, "advise river and northern ports," in that of Yokohama, "advise Kobe, Nagasaki," and in that of Singapore "advise Penang." Letters were at the same time addressed to the Canton, Amoy, and Foochow Chambers, advising them of the action of the Chamber. On the 4th, letters, following up telegram of 1st, were addressed to Shanghai, Yokohama, Singapore, and Saigon Chambers. On the same date a letter was also sent to the London Chamber of Commerce, acquainting it with the increase in the telegraph tariff, and requesting its support to the effort being made to resist same. On the 6th August a letter was addressed to the Acting Manager of the Joint Telegraph Companies strongly protesting against the sudden increase of charges for telegrams and combating the reason assigned for the change of tariff. On the 8th August a letter was despatched to the Government, enclosing copy of the Chamber's protest against the increase to telegraph rates, and begging the Governor to lend his support to the attempt to be made to induce the Companies to revert to their old tariff. On the 7th August, further letters were sent to Canton and Saigon, forwarding copy of the Chamber's protest to Telegraph Cos. On the 14th August, further letters were addressed to the Amoy, Foochow, Shanghai, Yokohama, and Singapore Chambers, all enclosing copies of the above-named protest.

Replies had been received from the Acting Manager of the Joint Telegraph Companies on the 7th August owing receipt of letter of protest, on the 18th idem in continuation of correspondence, and enclosing memorandum regarding cable charges from China, and on the 19th idem, read at meeting, announcing contemplated reductions on the rates from Hongkong to India and other countries.

Also read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 18th August, replying to Chamber's letter of the 8th idem, and stating that the Government had addressed a letter to the Telegraph Companies asking them to reconsider the recent sudden increase in tariff.

Replies had been received from Canton, Amoy, Shanghai, Yokohama, and Saigon Chambers expressing readiness to co-operate with Chamber, the two latter stating, however, that the increase in rates had not reached their ports. A reply had also been received from Singapore Chamber, stating the question would be laid before the Committee.

THE REPORTED RATIFICATION BY BRITISH MINISTER AT PEKING OF TELEGRAPH CONVENTION.

At a special meeting of the Committee, held on the 15th August, Mr. Jackson stated that he had the previous afternoon despatched the following telegram to Peking:—

"Is it true that British Minister has agreed to ratification of Convention between the Telegraph Companies?"

To this the subjoined reply was received on the 17th August:—

"In reply to your wire of 14th—Yes. British Minister has ratified under directions British Government."

After considerable discussion it was decided that a general meeting of members should be called at an early date to consider the steps to be taken to make an effective protest against the action of the Telegraph Companies in so suddenly raising their rates 37½ per cent. to Europe, and of the British Government in ratifying the Convention. A Committee was thereupon appointed to draft resolutions and make arrangements for the meeting.

(Correspondence.)

CHINA ASSOCIATION TO CHAMBER.

China Association,

Hongkong, 18th August, 1896.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq.,

Secretary,

Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—Reverting to your esteemed favour of 18th May, in which you were good enough to communicate the views entertained by your Committee regarding the then reported intention of the Chinese Government to endeavour to obtain the sanction of the Treaty Powers to an increase of import duties, I would now ask your attention to the enclosed telegram sent to London on 8th inst., which, without troubling you with extracts from the correspondence by which it was preceded, will, I think, make sufficiently clear the opinions held by my Committee on the suggested alterations in the existing tariff.

While expressing themselves as not unfavourably disposed towards a reasonable increase of import duties, the Committee have throughout strongly deprecated the sanction of Her Majesty's Ministers being given to any increase in present rates unless arrangements are made for an improved transit pass system which will frank goods through the entire Empire on payment of a single duty.—I am, dear sir, yours obediently.

F. HENDERSON,
Hon. Secretary.

Telegram.

"From Hongkong to London.

"With reference to your telegram of 29th July, unless consolidated into one duty covering all lekin and other internal charges, strongly object to proposed increase of duties; but we have no objection to increase of duties, provided goods travel free in the interior, and proper arrangements made for Provincial Authorities receiving their share; otherwise illegal exactions and evasions of treaty will continue as at present.

"Hongkong, August, 1896."

Coded and forwarded to London through the courtesy of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

LONDON CHAMBER TO HONGKONG CHAMBER.
Botolph House, Eastcheap,
London, E. C.,
3rd July, 1896.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Sir,

Brussels International Exhibition, 1897.

Her Majesty's Government has accepted the invitation of the Belgian Government to be represented at the International Exhibition to be held in Brussels next year, and they have invited this Chamber to assist in the organisa-

tion of a British section by the formation of a Committee and by performing such work as may be necessary for this purpose.

The London Chamber proposes to accept the invitation, of which fact I now give you the earliest possible intimation, and shall be glad to learn that your Chamber will co-operate.

It is thought advisable that Colonial products should be included in this Exhibition, and I shall therefore be glad if your and other Chambers of Commerce throughout your Colony will approach your Government with this object.

I am also to suggest that local Chambers might act as local Committees for the purpose of obtaining exhibits and this Chamber would be glad to co-operate in any way which might be thought advisable to make such colonial exhibits representative and successful.—Yours faithfully,

KENRIC H. MURRAY,
Secretary.

THE CHAMBER TO THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
4th August, 1896.

My Lord Marquess,—This Chamber is aware of the fact that negotiations are and have been for a good many months in progress with the Chinese Minister to Great Britain for the opening up of the West River and other inland waterways of Kwangtung to foreign trade and steam navigation.

I venture to ask your Lordship on behalf of the Committee, whether there is any progress to report in these negotiations. The great interest felt in this colony in this question must constitute my excuse for troubling your Lordship on the subject.—I have the honour to be, my Lord, your most obedient humble servant,

A. McCONACHIE,
Chairman.

To the Most Noble the Marquess of Salisbury,
K.G., &c., H.B.M.'s Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

THE CHAMBER TO THE BRITISH MINISTER.
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
4th August, 1896.

Sir,—My Committee will feel greatly obliged if your Excellency can furnish any further information, since their interview with you in April last, of the progress of the negotiations with the Chinese Government in reference to the opening to foreign trade and steamer navigation of the inland waterways of the Two Kwang provinces.

A similar application has been addressed to the noble lord the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of which I beg to forward for your Excellency's information.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To His Excellency Sir Claude Macdonald,
K.C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Minister to China.

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO CHAMBER.
Colonial Secretary's Office,
12th August, 1896.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 2nd March I am directed to inform you that the Canton Government, acting under orders from the Tsungli Yamen, has paid to Her Majesty's Consul at Canton the sum of \$2,182.52, being the amount of the claim preferred on behalf of Mr. John Andrew for losses caused by the illegal action of the Wuchoufu authorities.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary,

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

THE CHAMBER TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
4th August, 1896.

Sir,—In the well meant and most praiseworthy attempt in the Harbour Master's report for 1895 to furnish statistics of the trade of this port, my Committee have noticed some apparent errors, which, as tending to neutralise the value of the returns and possibly to mislead, they feel it their duty to point out.

The absence of any machinery for collecting these statistics renders it, of course, a difficult

task even to compile approximate returns, and hence the question arises whether it is worth while making the attempt at all.

As instances of the deficiencies in the table, reproduced hereunder, I venture to offer the following remarks:—

Imported 2,760,954 tons of cargo, as under:—

Articles.	1894.	1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Beans	3,995	3,848	...	147
Bones	2,040	2,340	300	...
Coal	562,909	563,767	858	...
Copra	10	...	...	10
Coffee .....	...	500	500	...
Cotton .....	...	50	50	...
Ebony .....	...	400	400	...
Flour	60,250	101,767	41,517	...
Hemp .....	...	1,200	1,200	...
Kerosine (bulk)	31,482	24,450	...	7,032
Kerosine (case)	68,905	42,601	...	26,304
	(1,929,340 cases)	(1,192,828 cases)	...	(736,512 cases)
Lead .....	...	1,350	1,350	...
Oil	3,804	3,348	...	456
Opium	2,825	2,464	...	361
Peas .....	...	1,060	1,060	...
Rattan	625	...	...	625
Rice	619,075	764,368	145,293	...
Salt .....	...	6,250	6,250	...
Saltpetre	50	...	...	50
Sandal-wood	1,625	1,262	...	363
Sapan-wood	1,300	600	...	700
Sulphur .....	...	500	500	...
Sugar	170,499	185,616	15,117	...
Tea	350	20	...	330
Timber	16,040	26,389	10,349	...
Vermicelli	170	800	630	...
General	1,079,676	1,026,094	...	53,672

Total

Referring to the articles, the figures for the following may, in the opinion of the Committee, be regarded as almost absolutely correct:—

Opium, Coal, Kerosine.

The subjoined are no doubt fairly correct:—

Rice, Bones, Flour.

The articles in the next class are probably understated:—Timber, Beans, Copra, Hemp, Oil.

The returns for the following are, they submit, positively incorrect:—Coffee, Cotton, Ebony, Peas, Lead (annual import at least 10,000 tons), Rattans (import not less than several thousand tons), Salt, Saltpetre (import some thousands of tons), Sulphur, Tea, Vermicelli (import several thousands of tons).

The Committee trust that His Excellency the Governor will understand that the foregoing criticisms are offered in no carping spirit, but simply with a desire to prevent undue importance being attached to returns which they imagine must have been compiled from in many cases more or less imperfect sources of information.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO CHAMBER.
Colonial Secretary's Office,
13th August, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant on the subject of the statistics of trade which appear in the Harbour Master's annual report.

In reply I am to point out that the ability of the Chamber to criticise these returns in such a manner as is done in your letter would seem to indicate that it has at its command information which might render the Harbour Master's returns more accurate, and consequently more valuable, than they are at present.

I am accordingly to request that, if there is no objection, the Chamber will be so good as to afford this information to the Harbour Master, or favour him with its valuable assistance in obtaining it.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

THE CHAMBER TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
31st July, 1896.

Sir,—This Chamber, naturally regardless of any question bearing on the prosperity of the port, is anxious to see that no impost levied for a special object should be suffered thereafter to become a permanent charge on the shipping frequenting it.

When in reply to a question put by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead in the Legislative Council on the 8th inst. the fact was elicited that the total sum received as the proceeds of the special Gap Rock lighthouse rate from 1889 (date of levy) to the 30th June last was \$358,521, while the amount expended during the same period for construction of lighthouse, laying of cable, and maintenance was \$315,935, showing a balance of \$42,586 in hand, my Committee felt that the time had arrived to ask the Government to redeem the pledge made by Sir William Des Vœux to abolish the extra tax of one and a half cents per ton on shipping.

It may perhaps be useful to quote, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the words used by his predecessor at the meeting of Council on the 11th December, 1889, when the Ordinance authorising this special addition to the light dues was passed. The following question, asked by Mr. MacEwen, the then nominee of this Chamber, and the reply of Sir William Des Vœux are taken from the short-hand report:—

"Mr. MacEwen—The discussion generally takes place on the second reading of Bills, but in a matter of this kind it would be satisfactory to know the length of time it is intended to levy this increase, because, if I recollect correctly, it was understood that the tax would only be levied in order to pay for the actual cost of the Lighthouse and then be withdrawn. Is that the understanding?"

"His Excellency—Most distinctly. The cent will not raise \$30,000, and I think we will be very lucky if we get off for \$120,000. It will be called the Gap Rock lighthouse rate, and it will involve the special sanction of the Legislative Council, and it will naturally cease when the Gap Rock lighthouse is paid off. As it is very inconvenient to levy for a broken period of the year, I think, unless there is strong reason to the contrary, it would be advisable to have a meeting again before the 1st January to pass this Bill. If you prefer a meeting at a later date I am quite willing to agree to that. However, as the Council has already practically agreed to this matter, there may be no objection to suspend the Standing Orders, and pass the Bill through all the stages to-day."

The Bill was passed there and then, and, in reply to a request by Mr. Ryrie that Mr. MacEwen's question and the reply thereto should be specially noted, Sir William Des Vœux further said:—

"His Excellency—Of course this will be recorded, and I think it will be just as well to mention in the minutes that Mr. MacEwen drew attention to the matter, and that I said that this extra rate was intended by me to be distinctly a payment for the Gap Rock lighthouse and nothing else. Of course, when Mr. Ryrie talks of a promise, I must say it is absolutely impossible for me to bind my successor about anything. All I can say is that I have not the slightest intention to apply the rate for any other purpose. If a necessity arose for doing so, I should come to this Board and inform it of the fact."

From these extracts it will be clear to His Excellency the Governor that Sir William Des Vœux made an explicit pledge, so far as he was concerned, that when the purpose for which this special Gap Rock lighthouse rate was levied had been achieved the impost would cease. This being the case beyond all cavil, my Committee confidently appeal to the Governor to carry out the expressed intentions of his predecessor in office, feeling sure that His Excellency's sense of justice will bind him to the fulfilment of the pledge given to the representatives of this Chamber.

The tax of one cent per ton levied prior to 1889, and still imposed, on shipping yields more than sufficient to provide for the upkeep and maintenance of all the lights, and the Committee therefore have the less hesitation in praying for the abolition of the special Gap Rock lighthouse rate.

Trusting that His Excellency will see his way to perform the pledge made by his predecessor without undue delay.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lookhart, Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO CHAMBER.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
14th August, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo on the subject of the Gap Rock light rate, and to inform you in reply that the matter is receiving the attention of the Government.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,
J. H. STEWART LOOKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

THE CABLE COMPANIES TO THE CHAMBER.
The Eastern Extension The Great Northern
Australasia & China Telegraph Company
Telegraph Com- of Copenhagen.
pany, Ltd.

Hongkong Station, 17th August, 1896.
R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq.,
Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—In reference to your letter dated the 6th instant regarding increases in telegraphic charges, I am instructed to state in reply that the action of the Companies has been limited to the one point enabling them to collect in currency an approximate equivalent of their official and authorised gold rates, or, in other words, to escape from the obligation of accepting a depreciated currency at its original value.

I have the pleasure to hand you herewith a memorandum which I trust will be found to contain a clear statement of the recent history of cable charges, and which will, I think, show that the action of the Companies has been consistent not only with their own personal interests but also with those of the public.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

J. M. BECK,
Acting Manager.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING CABLE CHARGES FROM CHINA.

The official rate between China and Europe is fixed in gold at francs 8.50.

This is collected in Great Britain as 7s. and in Germany as 7 marks.

In China it was collected as \$2, a rate fixed upon when the dollar was worth 3s. 6d., or thereabouts.

The fall in silver was considered to be only temporary, until 1892, when the dollar fell to a value below 3/-.

In February, 1893, the Companies, to diminish the heavy loss, added 15 per cent. to the silver rates collected, which then became \$2.30. Shortly afterwards the Chinese-Russian connections came into operation with a tariff of \$2 per word. The Companies continued to charge the higher figure, but of course at the expense of diverting some traffic to the Chinese lines.

Negotiations were opened with the Chinese Administration with the view of doing, in China, as is done everywhere in the world, namely, to collect the equivalent, in the local currency, of the official gold tariffs. These negotiations were fruitless and matters continued, with a steadily falling exchange and an increasing loss, until 1894, when, owing to the war, the Chinese lines became interrupted.

The Companies could then have raised their silver tariffs, but recognised that to do so temporarily would be unadvisable. Again negotiations were opened with China with the same objects as above stated, but again fruitlessly.

Towards the end of 1895 the Chinese routes were reopened with the original rate of \$2. The Companies then decided to follow, and advertised the same tariff.

In 1893 the Chinese Administration fixed a competition tariff on their land-lines between Shanghai, Amoy, Foochow, and Hongkong of 20 cents per word—a fighting rate pure and simple—and the Companies adopted the same over their cables.

The communities of China and Hongkong have therefore since 1892, been reaping the benefit of low competition rates, and the Companies, by the pressure of this competition, have been prevented from doing in this region what they have done in all other quarters, namely, to revise the silver tariffs, as exchange continued to fall, so as to make them fairly equivalent to the gold rate.

It is needless to say that no effort has been spared on the Companies' part to extricate

themselves from this position, and by an agreement recently signed, and which has been carefully considered by Her Majesty's Government and finally approved, it has resulted that the principle is adopted that the official gold rate shall be collected in currency at a fair and equivalent rate of exchange.

This would seem to be a simple and logical principle and practice. For years past while it has cost 7/- to send a word from London to Hongkong, it has only cost 4/- to send one in the reverse direction. Latterly, advantage has been taken of this discrepancy by some firms who prepaid replies to their messages from China (at \$2 per word), thus obtaining the advantage of the low rate both ways.

In bringing the new agreement into force the full equivalent of the gold rate has not been collected, but the tariff homewards is 6/- against 7/- outwards. The result is that the silver tariff from Hongkong and China is less than the silver tariff from Singapore, so that the China communities are still in an advantageous position compared with colonies nearer home.

As other Telegraph Administrations keep and liquidate their accounts in gold, the Companies have of course had to make all their outpayments in gold, which has left them a very small revenue on the homeward traffic, and in some cases there has been an actual loss. It is quite true that the present rate of exchange between silver and gold is slightly better than the lowest point touched during recent years, but as the Companies' par of exchange at the \$2 rate is \$1, equal to 3/6, it is no figure of speech to quote the "continued depreciation of silver," and if the value of the dollar had gone back to anything like 3/- it is not likely that any change of tariff would have been made.

The Companies, while doing all in their power to safeguard themselves against loss by a depreciated currency, have not shown themselves unmindful of the claims of the public for a general reduction, and from 1st July next, together with the general service regulations and tariffs of the Buda Pesth Conference, there will come into force a reduced rate of francs 7 in place of the existing francs 8.50.

With regard to local tariffs, a considerable scheme is being elaborated which will show important reductions to India and other countries. For local tariffs a uniform method of calculating has been adopted, namely, to charge 15 centimes per word for 100 knots of cable, and this has resulted in a considerable reduction in those cases where it has been applied.

This system, applied to the Hongkong-Shanghai cable of 1,000 knots, would work out to francs 1.50 per word, or \$0.55 per word at the present exchange; but the rate is fixed at 40 cents, and again the China communities are placed upon a better footing than any of their neighbours.

Some exception has been taken to the short notice given of the recent alterations. This was unavoidable, as the agreement contained a clause that the provisions should come into force on the 1st day of the month following its ratification. The agreement was ratified on the 30th July and notice could not be given before the 31st.

The Eastern Extension The Great Northern
Australasia & China Telegraph Company
Telegraph Com- of Copenhagen.
pany, Ltd.

Hongkong Station, 19th August, 1896.
R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq.,
Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the proposed reduction of telegraph rates to India and other countries mentioned in the statement sent you with my letter of the 17th instant, information has now been received that the rate from Hongkong to India will probably be reduced from \$1.80 to \$1.20 per word, and that this reduction, together with various others, will shortly be formally announced.

I would at the same time draw your attention to the reduction in local rates which came into force on the 1st ultimo, namely,—

Straits Settlements		Reduced from To	
Penang	1.80	1.20	
Malacca	1.60	1.05	
Singapore	1.40	1.00	

Dutch Indies:—

To	Reduced from	To
Java...	1.80	1.35
Other Islands...	2.05	1.60*

—I am, dear, sir, yours faithfully,

J. M. BECK,

Acting Manager.

HONGKONG CHAMBER TO LONDON CHAMBER
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
4th August, 1896.

Dear Sir,—The question of Telegraph Rates has on several occasions formed the subject of correspondence between the London Chamber and this Chamber, and I have now to advise you of a new and wholly unexpected development in this respect.

Only a month ago the Telegraph Companies, yielding to the representations of this Chamber, reduced the rates for messages on their lines south of Hongkong as far as the Straits Settlement, Labuan, &c., and the community were naturally gratified at the reduction.

On the 1st inst., however, after only one day's notice, the Companies suddenly sprang a new tariff on the public whereby the rate to Europe was advanced from \$2 to \$2.75, an increase of 37½ per cent. and a corresponding increase in the rates to America, while that to Shanghai was raised 100 per cent.

The main, indeed the sole, reason assigned for this sudden and arbitrary increase in their charges by the Companies is "the continued depreciation of silver," whereas within the past few years that metal has advanced some 12 per cent. in value.

The privileges and powers conferred on the Eastern Extension A. & C. Telegraph Co. by virtue of its practical monopoly entail certain responsibilities, which my Committee are of opinion are lost sight of. The arbitrary exercise of these powers involved in this extraordinary increase in rates, constituting as it does a serious burden on commerce, must raise the question whether a cable from Canada, via Honolulu and Japan, would not prove a relief from the tyranny of the existing monopoly.

My Committee trust your Chamber will co-operate, by means of its vast influence, to secure an early reversal of this oppressive tariff.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

Secretary.

To Kenric B. Murray, Esq., Secretary, London
Chamber of Commerce,

THE CHAMBER TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
8th August, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a protest addressed by this Chamber to the Joint Telegraph Companies on the subject of an unexpected and heavy increase in their tariff of rates to Europe, America, and Shanghai.

My Committee indulge the hope that having regard to the rights and privileges accorded to the Telegraph Companies in this colony the Governor will agree that scant consideration has been shown in this matter to the community; and they further trust that His Excellency will lend his support to the attempt to induce the Companies to reconsider the revision of rates they have, after a single day's notice and on so lame a pretext, thought fit to enforce.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,

Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial
Secretary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER.
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 18th August, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., with its enclosure, and to inform you in reply that the Government has addressed a letter to the Telegraph Company requesting that the recent sudden increase in the tariff of charges may be reconsidered.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

THE CHAMBER TO THE CABLE COMPANIES.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
21st August, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your letter of the 17th instant with memorandum regarding cable charges from China, and also your favour of the 19th instant announcing probable early reductions in the rates from Hongkong to India and other countries.

My Committee have read the memorandum on cable charges with great interest, but they are unable to follow the line of argument adopted by your Companies. On the contrary, it seems to them that the reasons advanced for raising the tariff here constitute excellent arguments in favour of a reduction of the rates at the other end.

The argument that Hongkong is better treated than Singapore can scarcely be accepted as a proof of the fairness of the Telegraph Companies, but may rather be regarded as an indication of their disposition to impose the heaviest burden where there seemed least power of resistance.

My Committee are glad to learn that it is proposed to reduce the rate from Hongkong to India from \$1.80 to \$1.20 per word, and that this reduction, together with various others, will shortly be formally announced. They cannot, however, accept this concession as compensation for the heavy advance in the rates to Europe and America, which action they regard as wholly opposed to modern ideas on the question of speedy communication, the tendency all over the world being in the direction of providing it, both postally and telegraphically, at cheaper rates, with a view alike to foster trade and to promote progress.

It must not be forgotten that the public, both in the United Kingdom and in her colonies, have been crying out for increased telegraphic facilities for some years past, and that schemes have been proposed for the laying of cables either from Canada or the United States to Japan, which latter country may be induced to lend important pecuniary assistance to such a project. It is needless for me to point out that the recent action of your Companies, consequent upon the ratification of the Telegraph Convention at Peking, is eminently calculated to alienate public support and to invite opposition.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,

Secretary.

To J. M. Beck, Esq.,

Acting Manager in China,

E. E. A. & C. Telegraph Company, Ltd.
Great Northern Telegraph Company.

CRUSADE AGAINST OPIUM DIVANS.

ARE THEY COMMON LODGING HOUSES?

At the Police Court on the 19th August before Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, an important case respecting the position of opium divans was heard. The keeper of an opium divan at 10, Cross Street was charged with keeping a lodging house without a licence. There were twelve other similar summonses against keepers of opium divans, all of which are licensed by the Kwong Fook dross opium farmers, to whom the premises are let out by the Opium Farmers.

Dr. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, appeared on behalf of the Sanitary Board, and Mr. Denny appeared for the dross opium farmers.

Inspector Cotton spoke to making two midnight visits to 10, Cross Street, one on the 11th inst. and the other on the 15th inst. On the first occasion 26 men were sleeping in the house and on the second occasion 52 men were sleeping.

In answer to Mr. Denny's witness said he made two visits because the Ordinance contained the words "usually occupied by over ten men." In March last he summoned several keepers for a similar offence, but the summonses were dismissed.

By the Magistrate—When witness took the summonses out in March he paid only one visit.

Mr. Denny, for the defence, said—May it please your Worship, in this case we are not charged with overcrowding or any other offence under the Health Ordinance. We are charged simply and solely with keeping a common lodg-

ing house without a licence. Our defence is that we are not keeping a common lodging house; we are keeping an opium divan. We have a licence, and under the terms of the licence it would be utterly impossible to turn the divan into a common lodging house. As your Worship is doubtless aware, the Government, principally for reasons of revenue, licence the sale and preparation of opium in this colony, and amongst the privileges this system gives to the opium farmer is the privilege of licensing a sub-farmer for the sale of dross opium. That sub-farmer has issued a licence to the defendant, who holds that opium divan subject to the terms of the licence. "This licence is valid for one month only and is liable to be withdrawn at any time by the company." The whole object of that licence is to keep an opium divan.

His Worship—The only object of those terms is to make him pay monthly.

Mr. Denny—I admit that, but according to the terms of the contract the licence is liable to be withdrawn at any time. A dross opium divan in this colony is a place where a man purchases a certain amount of dross opium at a certain rate. If he smokes that opium on the premises he gets it at one rate; if he smokes it off the premises he gets it at another rate. The dross opium farmer allows his licensee to sell only at those rates, and the only business done on the premises of an opium divan is the supplying of opium. Those people who go to an opium divan pay nothing whatever for board and lodging and they are not supplied with anything in the way of eating and drinking. They do not lodge there in the sense that they stop for any definite time; they simply go there to smoke and they stay there as long as they feel inclined. If a man goes to the place and purchases opium he is given a pipe and a certain amount of opium, and he can have the pipe refilled if he likes. He does not pay anything for board and lodging, and therefore it would be utterly absurd to call the place a common lodging house. I will call your Worship's attention to the by-laws relating to common lodging houses. "The keeper of a common lodging house shall never permit persons of a bad character to remain in his house, and he shall keep a register of the name, occupation, and native place of each lodger." It would be utterly absurd if, when a man came in for a few cents' worth of dross opium, the person supplying the opium was bound to keep a register of the man's name, occupation, and native place. That by-law was drafted for cases of permanent lodging, but in an opium divan a man may stay half an hour or four or five hours. He may get sleepy and stay there the whole night, but that fact does not make an opium divan a common lodging house in the faintest degree. If the Sanitary Authorities complained of these places being overcrowded, that would be a different offence, but to make the places common lodging houses when they are not common lodging houses in any sense of the word would, I submit, be absurd. In regard to the word "usually" I submit that it is certainly not covered by the evidence of the prosecution. If a man is seen drunk on two occasions he could not be said to be usually drunk and it is equally ridiculous to say that this place has been usually occupied by over ten men after twelve o'clock at night because the inspector only twice saw over that number.

The manager of the Kwong Fook dross opium farm was then called. He said that the charge for each piece of dross opium was 32 cash if smoked on the premises and 36 cash if smoked off the premises. Nobody but purchasers of dross opium and the employees had any right to enter the divan. The divan was open at all hours of the day and night. Cargo coolies went there after leaving work at twelve o'clock at night; nightsoil men went there at two or three o'clock in the morning; and market coolies went there on their way to the market in the early morning.

By the Magistrate—It takes a man a quarter of an hour to smoke thirty-two cash worth of dross opium. The customers were allowed to remain there as long as they liked, but they would have to leave if there was no room when fresh customers came in. Witness smoked opium, and he occasionally went to sleep, but not habitually.

Mr. Denny—Opium smoking has a very somnolent effect. In Jules Verne's "Round the world in eighty days" the traveller is taken to a Hongkong opium divan and he missed the steamer next morning because he fell into a heavy sleep and did not wake for two days. That of course does not happen in real life, but three or four pipes have a very stupefying effect. I ask your Worship to give a carefully considered decision in this case and to allow the other cases to remain over. Altogether there are 102 opium divans in the colony and therefore the case is rather an important one.

Dr. Clark—I would like to say that it is not our intention or wish that these opium divans should be registered. What we wish is that they shall not be used as sleeping places for coolies apart from the sale of opium.

Mr. Denny—That is not the charge. The opium farmers are quite ready to take any suggestions from the Sanitary Board as to the management of these places. What they object to is these places being called common lodging houses. If there is any overcrowding or anything of that sort, or any regulation which the Sanitary Board wishes to enforce, the opium farmers will do their best to see that it is properly carried out. They do not want to be forced to register as a common lodging house, and that is the only offence with which they are charged.

Dr. Clark—In reply I say that of course we have taken out a summons for keeping these places without a licence, but we do not wish licences to be taken out for opium divans; we wish them to be used solely for the sale of opium and not as sleeping places for coolies. The Sanitary Board considered this question some time ago and they decided they would not issue any regulations for opium divans, but would bring them within the Ordinances and by-laws of the colony, and for that reason we have taken out these summonses.

The Magistrate—I will give my decision on Saturday morning at 11.30.

At the Magistracy on Saturday Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings delivered judgment in the case in which Lai Chuk Ping, the keeper of an opium divan on the first floor of No. 10, Cross Street was summoned for keeping a common lodging house without a licence.

Dr. Clark appeared for the Sanitary Board and Mr. Denny for the defendant.

The defendant was convicted and fined \$1.

His Worship, in giving judgment, said—The summons in this test case is that Lai Chuk Ping at No. 10, Cross Street, 1st floor, did on the 15th August, 1896, keep open a common lodging house without registering the same and obtaining a licence from the Registrar-General, contrary to Ordinance 24 of 1887, section 73. For the defence, it is urged that it is an opium divan that is kept, not a lodging house, that under the terms of the licence it would be utterly impossible to turn the divan into a lodging house, that the licence is valid for one month only and liable to withdrawal at any time, that customers pay nothing for board and lodging, and are supplied with neither food nor drink. Referring to the by-laws relating to common lodging houses, No. 11 is quoted to show the insuperable obstacles in the way. "The keeper of a common lodging house shall not knowingly permit persons of bad character to lodge in his house, and he shall maintain and enforce good order and decorum therein, and he shall also keep a register of the name, occupation, and native place of each lodger." The Dross Farmer pays the Opium Farmer \$4,300 a month, and he licenses 102 divans at a monthly fee of \$6 each and a commission on each piece of dross opium sold, ranging from 40 cents to \$3.50 per day for each divan. He also gets the export and import duties on all dross ranging from \$2 to \$400 per mensem. It may safely be assumed therefore that there is a fair margin for profit. Registration of divans as common lodging houses would not, however, decrease these profits. Registration is free; and were the dross licence to be withdrawn the lodging house licence would still be valid. In no common lodging houses in the colony are the inmates supplied with food or drinks: for lodging the average charge is about 2 to 3 cents a night—for lodging pure and simple. With special reference to by-law

11, the harbouring of bad characters should be discouraged equally in a divan as in a lodging house; numbers of poor creatures, however, who constantly appear in this Court for petty thefts, unlawful possession, &c., can give no other address than that of some divan, which is their only home. If good order and decorum were also to be habitually enforced in divans the number of assault cases would show a material decrease. Where prepared opium is retailed under licence from the Farmer, the retailers are required to obtain the name and address of the purchaser for insertion in the certificate; with very slight labour similar particulars could be noted in a register in the divans. These considerations, however, are beside the province of the Court. Ordinance 4 of 1895, section 2, provides a definition of a common lodging house. "Any house or part thereof where usually only male persons are housed—not being members of the same family—to the number of 10 persons and upwards." On the first floor of 10, Cross Street, between 12 and 12.30 a.m. on the 11th inst., 26 men were found, 23 of whom were asleep; 97 hours later, viz., between 1 and 1.30 a.m. on the 15th, on the same floor in the same house, 32 men were found, all asleep, except the man who opened the door. The presumption is therefore a fair one that more than 10 persons are "usually" housed there. No attempt was made by the defence to show that they were members of the same family, that there were any special circumstances to account for the presence of ten persons and upwards. I have therefore no hesitation in deciding that No. 10, Cross St., first floor, is a common lodging house as defined by Ordinance 4 of 1895. I feel compelled to remark that the elementary rules of hygiene held to be absolutely necessary to apply to common lodging houses seem to be equally necessary in this class of house, which equal in number more than 20 per cent. of that of the registered common lodging houses in Victoria. With regard to Dr. Clark's remarks that the Sanitary Board do not desire the registration of these houses, this Court is bound by the four corners of the Ordinance. If the Sanitary Board did not intend to proceed criminally with a view to the law being enforced, I fail to see why proceedings should have been taken in this Court at all. I can scarcely seriously suppose that Dr. Clark accepted unreservedly the statement for the defence that "the Opium Farmers are quite ready to take any suggestion from the Sanitary Board as to the management of these places;" if so, unless the Board's suggestions were backed by statutory authority, he would be idle. Under the circumstances, I shall impose the nominal fine of \$1 to carry conviction.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LIMITED.

The half yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the Company, Praya Central, on the 24th August, Mr. J. Kramer presided, and there were also present—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. St. C. Michaelson, J. H. Lewis, N. A. Siebs, J. S. Van Buren, G. B. Dodwell (Directors), D. Gillies (Chief Manager), T. I. Rose (Secretary), T. Arnold, C. S. Sharp, F. Henderson, H. Wicking, R. Mitchell, W. Parfitt, P. Jordan, and J. J. Leiria.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, with your permission I will take the report which has been in your hands for some time as read. It is a great satisfaction to your directors to be able to continue to lay before you such favourable results. When we met a year ago, we placed before you what was then described as a record report. Since then our figures have steadily increased, and according to the report we have now for appropriation the highly satisfactory sum of \$623,547.42. This enables us to again pay a dividend of 8 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent. to shareholders, to make a return of \$20,000 to contributing shareholders, write off some \$51,500, increase the reserve fund to \$400,000, and carry forward about \$157,000 to new account. These figures speak for them-

selves and I have but few comments to make on them. The \$200,000 passed to reserve out of last account have been on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for some time past, and our interest account, already reduced to a nominal amount at the debit, will, I trust, appear on the credit side of our next statement. A case of salvage accounts for the marked increase in our towage earnings. The constant prosperity of the Company is not only a proof of the high class workmanship performed by our efficient staff, but is also a sign of the ever increasing shipping trade of this colony. Taking also into consideration the very low book value of our various establishments, I may safely say that the prospects of this Company are very promising indeed. At Kowloon the new houses for the European employees are approaching completion, while the buildings for the same purpose at our Cosmopolitan establishment are already finished. At Cosmopolitan Dock some work of extension is going on, while at Kowloon, with a view to relieve the pressure of work and to meet the increasing wants of our constituents, your directors have under consideration certain schemes for adding largely to the facilities of that establishment. The negotiations with the Government for the construction of a new dock at Kowloon have been broken off, our proposals having been declined by the Admiralty. Upon Mr. Gillies' return to the colony in May last, Mr. Cooke was granted leave of absence. I wish still to mention that high praise is due to our staff, who have at all times—I may say day and night—during the very busy half year done their utmost to assist our managers to attain the good results before you to-day. In concluding my remarks I am glad to be able to state that the working for July shows very satisfactory results, while the month of August promises well. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions which shareholders may wish to put regarding the matters now before the meeting.

Mr. WICKING—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, in the last half year's report I think some provision was made to compensate the working staff of the Docks for the large amount of overtime which they have given. I see no provision on that account in this report. I think it is only right that some compensation should be made.

The CHAIRMAN—That is always done at the end of the year and it will surely be taken into consideration then.

Mr. WICKING—I hope it will, as it is only just to the staff who have been working at night. They should be paid for doing night work, as the men come here without expecting to do such work.

The CHAIRMAN—The remarks I have made show that the work done by the staff is highly appreciated, not only by the shareholders, but by the directors as well. This matter will have the earnest consideration of the directors at the end of the present year.

Mr. WICKING—I am very glad to hear your remarks. In that case I think I have no more to say on the subject.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no further questions I beg to propose the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts.

Mr. SHARP—Mr. Chairman, I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution which you have put. In doing so I must congratulate, and I think all shareholders will join me in congratulating, the Board and the staff generally upon the very fine report which has been presented to-day. I heartily endorse the remarks made by Mr. Wicking about the work of the staff. Looking as far back as the last year's figures it is simply marvellous to see how the prosperity of the Company has not only been kept up but has also increased. One would like to believe that this state of affairs will continue, but I am sure that shareholders will be glad that something is put by for a rainy day in the way of increasing the reserve fund and writing down property. I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

**HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY,
LIMITED.**

The ordinary half yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, was held at the Hongkong Hotel on the 21st August at noon. Mr. W. Parfitt presided, and there were also present—Messrs. E. Osborne, R. O. Wilcox (Directors), C. Mooney (Secretary), W. H. Gaskell, H. K. A. Fisher, W. H. Potts, F. D. Goddard, G. C. Cox, J. C. Peter, Ho Tung, C. J. Gonsalves, A. A. Gutierrez, F. Henderson, F. Brown, Leung Tit Shan, Ip Chi Fong, Wong Kam Fuk, Chan Chau Nam, Han Cheuk Tin, Leung King Shan.

The Secretary read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, as the report and accounts for the half year ending 30th June last have been in your hands since Monday last I will, with your permission, take them as read. The business of the Company continues to be good for the time of the year. We hope very soon to have a manager who we trust will enable us to largely increase the profits of the catering department. Arrangements have been made for increasing the boiler power in the building later in the year, which will add very much to the efficiency of the passenger and luggage lifts and ensure a better supply of hot and cold water throughout the hotel. A considerable part of the old building has recently been colour-washed and painted, and we hope the expenditure may be justified by increased receipts from that part of the premises during next cool season. Carpets have been ordered from England for many of the old rooms, and a much needed supply of glass, crockery, cutlery, and linen for the dining-room department. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to hear any remarks which any shareholder present may wish to make.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Ho TUNG seconded.

Carried.

Mr. FISHER proposed and Mr. Cox seconded the re-election of Mr. W. Parfitt on the directorate.

Carried.

Captain GODDARD proposed and Mr. GONSALVES seconded the re-election of Mr. Osborne as director.

Carried.

The re-election of Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell as auditors was proposed by Mr. PETER, seconded by Mr. GUTIERREZ, and carried.

Mr. Ho TUNG—Before we depart I beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the Board of Directors and the staff for the very splendid report they have presented to us to-day for the period under review. Having some knowledge and experience of the working of this Company, I have no hesitation in saying that the gratifying results achieved during the past six months are mainly, if not entirely, due to the ability, energy, and untiring efforts of the Board of Directors, ably supported by the staff. I hope that the hitherto unfortunate shareholders of this Company will very soon get a return on their investment. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—I have to thank you, Mr. Ho Tung and shareholders present, on behalf of my co-directors and the staff, for the vote of thanks which you have kindly passed towards us. That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen.

PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the work carried on at Punjom during the month of July, from the Manager at the mines:—

Mining—Our best attention has been given to all work coming under this head and I am pleased to say fair progress has been made.

August Shaft, 200 feet Level—This continues to be a busy point and is now giving a large quantity of ore for the mill. The grade is low, however, but I have reason to hope for an improvement when once the stopes have been opened.

We have done but little on Gillies' reef during the month, through having had to disconnect the air pipes by which that point is ventilated, while opening the stopes on the E. and W. reef.

The stopes on the course of the N. and S. reef are without change to notice. I regret to say that the ore found on the North and South reef and referred to in my last report has not turned out as I had hoped; in fact, after driving on its course a few feet it suddenly dipped under foot and disappeared altogether. I feel sure it is the "cap" of a new chute of ore, however, and will be found again in depth. This drive is now in good looking formation and should it meet with a reef I have no doubt it will be found payable.

Intermediate level.—We are stoping on a strong body of ore here of very fair quality, and from appearances should get a large quantity of such ore. We have three winzes sinking below this level for the purpose of opening the ground for stoping between it and the 200ft. level. We are also putting a drive west off the new shaft for the better handling of the work at and above this level.

110ft. Level.—The stopes here continue to give their usual quantity of ore for the mill. We have come on to a body of quartz in the drive we are extending north in search of the western chute of ore, but so far it is poor. From its position, I feel sure it is a floating piece of reef and has no connection with our western chute, which should be still ahead of us.

New Leader.—The various points at work here have given a fair quantity of ore for the mill, and will continue to do so for some time longer.

Drivage for the month... 454 ft.

Ore mined ... Tons 1,238 10 cwt.

made up as follows:—

August Shaft ... 909 tons.

New Leader... 329 tons 16 cwt.

Milling.—This was carried on during 27 days, crushing 1,100 tons, yielding 519 oz. 4 dwts. of melted Gold.

Calcining Works.—This went on during 29 days treating 69 tons of concentrates, yielding 84 oz. 1 dwt. of melted gold.

Cyanide Works.—This plant worked 15 days treating 430 tons of tailings yielding 280 oz. 2 dwts. of bullion valued at £1 13s. 2d. per oz. Of course you will know that through want of cyanide, work had to be discontinued. The plant ceased work on the 10th July and is now standing idle, but from advices from our Singapore agents, the home order has been received and was shipped to Pekan on the 18th July, so we are daily expecting its arrival here at the mines.

General.—We have again gone through a good deal of work coming under this head. A road about 3,000 feet long has been made to enable us to reach a new timber reserve and a bridge put over the Jalis River to enable us to reach it at all times.

The main race leading from the main dam to the mill has been extended about 300 ft. so as to allow of boats going alongside our calcining plant, and a large quantity of earthwork excavated to make room for the storing of our tailings. The water wheel pit has been completed, securely timbered, and the foundation timbers of the wheel put into position. The main race from the Jalis River to the mill has also been completed. The tailings pump (Plunger) has been started and is doing good work.

Six thousand bricks have been made and put to stock.

Labour.—The supply of this has fallen off, I regret to say, owing to sickness in the camp and the Government requiring a large number of men in making the main road from Raubits Ki Lipis.

Health.—This is not very good. I regret to have to report the breaking out of cholera here on the 25th July amongst our Chinese work-people. Strong measures were at once taken to cope with the disease, and I am pleased to say we seem to have got it well under control. Altogether we have had seven cases, five of which have terminated fatally.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is four inches.

RAUB.

The Raub Mining Manager's report for the four weeks ending on the 5th August, 1896, runs as follows:—

Raub Hole.—No. 2 Shaft.—I am pleased to say that the improved prospects referred to in my last report still continue. We have now driven 51 feet on the gold-bearing chute of ore without any signs of being through it. In the face of the Intermediate Drive going south the lode is about 15 inches wide, and carries good gold all through. In the stopes coming in over the back of this drive the lode is from 18 inches to 2 feet wide, and carries good gold. Taking the south end all through, the prospects look very good. We have also some cross leaders near the crosscut, at the 120 ft. level, which show very fair gold, although small. In the Main Drive going south, at the 220 ft. level, the lode has widened to about 6 inches, but shows no gold. The face is making a lot of water, and altogether looks more promising than it has yet done. I expect to have to drive a considerable distance yet before cutting the main ore chute in this level.

Bukit Koman.—This section still continues to develop very well, and the different drives continue to expose large bodies of payable ore. In the main level going north, at 146 feet, the lode in the face still continues very irregular. The average width of this is nine to ten feet of crushing stuff in which gold can be seen in breaking. The ground is favourable for working, and good progress is being made. We are getting well across the swamp with this level, and shall soon be under the extensive workings of Bukit Jalis (Kitchil). These workings extend north right over Bukit Jalis (Besar) and on to where we are now sinking the new shaft at Bukit Malacca over half a mile. In the main level going south, the lode continues to look remarkably well; in the face of the level, it is fully 12 feet wide and shows fair gold from wall to wall. The lode is solid quartz between well-defined slate walls, and, for regularity of prospects and size, is one of the best formed lodes I have ever seen. In the leading stopes coming in over the back of this level, the stopes are from 10 to 20 feet wide; the whole of the lode from the different faces is being sent to the mill as broken. There is no change in the rest of the stopes over this level, as very little work is being done in them. At the No. 2 (or 250 feet) level, 33 feet has been driven on the course of the lode, about equal distances north and south. These drives are being driven 5 by 7 feet on the footwall side of the lode. The drive going north is all in solid quartz, and shows gold in breaking. The best gold is on the hanging wall side of the lode, which we have not yet taken down. In the drive going south, the lode does not look quite so well, the face being a mixture of quartz, slate, and diorite, and shows very little gold. The ground is very hard in both faces, and only slow progress is being made in driving. There is little or no water making in these faces.

Bukit Malacca.—This shaft is now down 112½ ft. 19½ ft. has been sunk since resuming sinking with the two 8-in. pumps. The water is still very heavy, and gives the pumps all they can do to keep it down. The ground is coming in harder, which is greatly in our favour, as hitherto it has given us a lot of trouble owing to its running and the heavy water we have had to contend with.

Western Lode.—The lode in the faces going south are smaller, and do not show so well as they did a little while ago, but the main stopes show the usual quality of crushing stuff, and show no change in prospects. I am only working one shift (day) in this section, as I cannot crush the stuff.

Battery.—This has been kept running full time with the exception of nine hours lost, owing to the key in the fly-wheel of the engine coming loose, and having to fit a new one. On 4th instant, a rough clean up took place for the four weeks ending that date, 1,030 tons yielding 1,326 ounces amalgam. Crushing was resumed again the same afternoon. Owing to the long spell of dry weather we are having, the supply of water in the dam is very low. Had it not been for two small showers we have had during the past two days, the mill would have been stopped.

for want of water. We have now about a fortnight's supply, but, as it now promises rain, I have no doubt that, before our present supply is exhausted, we will have more rain. Owing to the dry weather, there is a good deal of sickness about.

WM. BIBBY, Mining Manager.

THE FOURTH GYMKHANA MEETING.

Saturday afternoon was moderately cool and so the fourth gymkhana meeting, which had been postponed on account of the excessive heat, was held under very favourable circumstances. A large number of spectators, including His Excellency the Governor and Major General Black, assembled in the enclosure and they were rewarded with a capital afternoon's sport. As usual, the arrangements made by the officials were excellent and the programme was gone through in good time. In the fourth event, a steeplechase, an accident occurred which might have had serious results. Mr. Grayson was riding Artaxerxes and at the first obstacle the pony shied and threw the rider, who was hurled into the ditch. Mr. Grayson happily escaped with only a drenching of ditch water. The last event provided considerable excitement and was undoubtedly the best race of the day. During the afternoon the band of the Rifle Brigade supplied the following items of music—

March—"Hoch Habsburg".....Kral
Overture—"Zanetta".....Auber
Valse—"The Cloister".....Prout
Selection—"Doris".....Cellier
Intermezzo—"Marie".....Williams
Valse—"Visions D'Amour".....Delbruck

The following is the list of officials—

Patrons—His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., His Excellency Major-General Black, C.B., Commodore G. T. Boyes, R.N.

Committee—Mr. R. Alexander, R.B., Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. Hart Buck, Capt. Burney, R.A., Mr. M. Grote, Mr. V. Caesar Hawkins, Mr. T. F. Hough, Capt. Loveband, A.D.C., Mr. J. McKie, Mr. A. S. Manners, Mr. G. C. C. Master, Mr. C. H. Nugent, R.E., Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Capt. Radclyffe, R.B., Commander Tunnard, R.N., Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

Judges.—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

Handicappers.—Mr. Hart Buck, Mr. T. F. Hough, Mr. M. Grote.

Starter.—Capt. Burney, R.A.

Timekeeper.—Mr. J. McKie.

Clerk of the Scales.—Mr. R. Alexander, R.B.

Hon. Treasurer.—Capt. Radclyffe.

Hon. Secretary.—Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G.

NOVICE HANDICAP; first prize presented by the Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., second, \$20; third, \$10; five to start or no third prize. Once round.

Surg.-Capt. Edye's Planet, 11st. 7lbs..... (Capt. Burney) 1

Mr. Forbes's Simple Simon, 11st. 11lbs..... (Mr. Thompson) 2

Captain Loveband's Artaxerxes, 12st. 0lb.... (Capt. Loveband) 0

Mr. C. H. Thompson's Desespoir, 11st. 3lbs. (Mr. Grayson) 0

Simple Simon bolted as the ponies were getting in order and there was some delay at the post. Planet got the best of rather a ragged start and he was followed by Simple Simon, Desespoir being a long way behind. Planet went ahead of his opponents and won in a common canter by many lengths, the most interesting part of the race being the close finish for second honours, Simple Simon getting home half a length in front of Artaxerxes. Desespoir was a long way behind and he received rather a sarcastic reception.

DISTANCE HANDICAP; first prize, \$30; second prize, \$20; third prize, \$10; fourth to save his stakes; distance, one mile; seven to start or no fourth prize; five or no third prize.

Mr. Whitehead's Vicar, yds. 350, 11st. 6lbs. (Mr. Jones) 1

Mr. Deacon's Throstle... 350, 12st. 8lbs. (Owner) 2

Capt. Loveband's Xerxes 320, 11st. 10lbs. (Owner) 3

Capt. Loveband's The Friar 375 11st.... 7lbs. (Grayson) 4
Mr. Graham's Waler Egerton, Scratch..... 12st. 7lbs. (Owner) 0
Mr. Master's Major, 270 10st. (Long) 0
Mr. C. H. Thompson's Pegasus 375, 11st. 10lbs. (Owner) 0
Mr. Potts's Sub-Griffin ... 400, 12st. (Owner) 0
Mr. W. Jackson's Touchstone 440, 11st. 7lbs. (Owner) 0

This proved rather an uninteresting race, the chief feature in it being the speculation as to where Egerton, scratch, would be placed. Mr. Graham's horse certainly raced in good style, but he only managed to come in sixth. The winner was pumped on passing the post.

SPECIAL PRIZE; each rider may be nominated by a lady, whose name should be handed in by him at the time of weighing; first nominee past the post at the finish to win.

The special prize awarded in the distance handicap was won by Mr. Jones, who was nominated by Mrs. J. J. Francis.

DOG RACE; first prize, \$10; second prize, \$7; third prize, \$3; post entries free. Conditions.—The dogs to be held by a string 100 yds. from their nominators or masters; each to be "slipped" on the word "go." The first dog to his nominator or master to win. The nominator to provide the "slipper."

Sergeant Frost, R.A. 1

Mr. Forbes 2

Private Redshaw, R.E. 3

Bugler Spice, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Private Dillon, Private Harse, Mr. Plinston, Mr. Webster, Surgeon-Captain Edye, Private Brown, Private Duggon, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Davis also sent dogs for competition.

This race, a novelty in gymkhanas, was very amusing, although rather short-lived.

STEEPLECHASE; over the steeplechase course as selected by the Committee; first prize, \$50; second prize, \$20; third prize, \$10; five to start or no third prize.

Mr. Whitehead's Kingscote, 11st. 10lbs..... (Mr. Boden) 1

Capt. Loveband's Xerxes, 11st. 12lbs. (Owner) 2

Capt. Burney's Baccarat, 11st. 10lbs. (Owner) 3

Capt. Loveband's Artaxerxes, 11st. 7lbs..... (Mr. Grayson) 0

Mr. Salmonds Q.C., 11st. 3lbs. (Owner) 0

5lbs. Jockey allowance.

At the first hurdle Artaxerxes refused, swerved, fell, and threw Mr. Grayson into the ditch, but fortunately he escaped injury. Xerxes led for some distance, but was overhauled by Kingscote, who led until the last water jump, where he stumbled. Xerxes overtook him, but Mr. Whitehead's pony shot ahead again and won by three lengths, Baccarat being third.

MILE HANDICAP; first prize presented by the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving; second prize, \$20; third prize, \$10; five starters or no third prize.

Dr. Noble's Grey Leg, 11st. 6lbs..... (Mr. Jones) 1

Mr. Potts's Vagabond, 11st. 5lbs..... (Mr. Master) 2

Mr. Nugent's Armistice, 10st. 9lbs..... (Mr. Boden) 3

Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 10st. 12lbs..... (Mr. Jones) 0

Mr. Whitehead's The Laird, 11st. 4lbs. (Mr. Grayson) 0

This was a very spirited race and furnished more excitement than any of the other events. The ponies kept well together right up to the straight; indeed in passing the village they were abreast. On reaching the bend the riders struggled their hardest for supremacy and a keenly contested race ended in a victory for Grey Leg. Time—2 mins. 26 secs.

The date of opening the new port of Hangchow to foreign commerce has been fixed for the 25th day of the Chinese 8th moon (1st October). The custom house now being built by Ningpo men is being pushed forward, but will not be completed before March, 1897. In the meantime the customs business will be transacted at the office of Foreign Affairs. A Police station is to be organised and maintained on the same basis as the Ningpo one, under the control of the customs. One foreigner has been engaged as head of the police force, which at present consists of 25 members.—*Mercury*.

RIFLE BRIGADE BIRTHDAY SPORTS.

The first battalion of the Rifle Brigade celebrated their 96th birthday on Tuesday by holding sports at the Happy Valley. Unfortunately the weather during most of the day was very unfavourable, but late in the afternoon the sun broke through the clouds and fine weather lasted throughout the meeting. The attendance of the general public was not so large as might have been expected, but probably the meagre turnout was due to the uncertainty of the weather. However, the soldiers themselves assembled in large numbers and the whole of the spectators thoroughly enjoyed the excellent sport provided. There were an exceptionally large number of competitors in most of the events, and the programme was gone through very expeditiously, although the last event was decided in a very bad light. In the blind man's race there was an accident which might have proved very serious. The competitors were blindfolded and as they had their backs towards the finishing post they had to turn round on starting and find their way home as best they could. One of the men, Acting Corporal Hale, made a direct run for the ditch and before he could be stopped he bounded into it. Happily he escaped injury, and he smilingly extricated himself and joined in the general laughter which succeeded the fears expressed for his safety. All the items furnished considerable interest and amusement, but the children's handicap deserves special mention. This was a very pleasing feature in the entertainment. Ten children, all offsprings of members of the Regiment, competed, and it was a delightful treat to watch the little ones toddling along, all with the keenest look of determination to win depicted in their faces. One of the tiny competitors cried very much after the race was over because she was not given enough start, and this picture of disappointment very nearly made the cruel starter himself burst into tears. He managed to restrain his feelings and comforted the little one with some sweets and a promise to be kind next time.

The following Committee had charge of the arrangements.—

PRESIDENT AND REFEREE—Lieut.-Col. C. H. B. Norcott.

MEMBERS.—Capt. R. G. T. Baker-Carr, Lieut. S. C. Long, Lieut. G. Paley, Lieut. J. H. Thresher, Qr.-Mr. L. Hoey, Sergt.-Major Morrish, Colour-Sergt. Finney, Colour-Sergeant Lacey.

During the afternoon the bands of the Rifle Brigade and the Hongkong Regiment played many pleasing selections of music.

Details:—

100 YARDS RACE. Prizes—\$10, \$5, \$3.

Acting Corporal Hale 1

Private Green 2

Private Bannister 3

Private Richardson and Pridde also ran.

A very good race. The winner soon got ahead, but he was closely pursued and passed the tape only a yard in front of Green. Bannister was only a few inches from Green.

SACK RACE. Distance, 100 yards. Prizes—\$8, \$4, \$2.

First heat:—

Private Goreham 1

Private Wilson 2

Private Hodson 3

Second Heat:—

Acting Corporal Hale 1

Private Allen 2

Private Richardson 3

Third Heat:—

Private Brown 1

Private Pridde 2

Private Bryan 3

FINAL HEAT.

Private Goreham 1

Private Bryan 2

Acting Corporal Hale 3

There were thirty-six competitors altogether, and as usual there was plenty of fun in the races.

THREE-LEGGED RACE. Distance 100 yards.

Prizes—\$8, \$4, \$2.

Privates Thistlewood and Bannister 1

Privates Pridde and Loasby 2

Privates Winnill and Goreham 3

ONE MILE GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE.—Open to teams of six N. C. O. or men per Company. Prizes—\$20, \$15, \$10.

"E" Company... 1
"D" Company... 2
"F" Company... 3

BLIND MAN'S RACE. Distance—75 yards. Prizes—\$8, \$4, \$2.

Private Green... 1
Private Loasby... 2
Private Winmill... 3

Plenty of fun and an exciting incident caused by one of the competitors leaping into a ditch characterised this event.

LOTTERY RACE. Distance—200 yards. Prizes—\$10, \$8, \$4.

Private Green for Lumber... 1
Private Bannister for Winkworth... 2
Private Dicks for Harris... 2

JOCKEY RACE. Distance, 100 yards. Prizes—\$8, \$4, and \$2.

Private Bannister... 1
Acting Corporal Hale... 2
Private Goreham... 3

CHILDREN'S HANDICAP. Distance, 300 yards. Prizes—\$5, \$4, \$3, \$2, and \$1.

Percy Morrish... 1
Effie Morrish... 2
Herbert Peachey... 3
Lena Morrish... 4
Nellie Baker... 5

Ten children competed, and three of those placed were those of Sergeant-Major Morrish.

DRIBBLING FOOTBALL. Distance, 100 yards. Prizes—\$8, \$4, \$2.

Private Bryan... 1
Private Walker... 2
Private Weller... 3

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

COMMEMORATION OF TRAFALGAR DAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Over ninety years have elapsed since Nelson's victory at Trafalgar definitely assured to us maritime supremacy and commercial prosperity. Our outlying possessions were then preserved and it enabled us to build up that vast Empire which is to-day comprised in Great and Greater Britain. No such momentous issue as rested on the skill and courage of Nelson and those who fought under him on October 21st, 1805, had occurred in the history of this country since the Great Armada of Spain was similarly dispersed, over two hundred years previously.

For ten years we had been struggling against a powerful combination directed by the marvellous genius and energy of Napoleon. The strain on the nation had been intense, and the privation to all classes very great, but this great victory brought relief and left us a Command of the Sea which has not since been disputed.

Yet until last year the anniversary of this glorious day has been suffered practically to pass unnoticed. Surely this is a national disgrace which should be removed. The Navy League proposes that throughout the Empire on October 21st the day shall be commemorated by decorating all statues of the great Admiral and in other ways. To do this in a manner worthy of the occasion money is required and everyone sympathising with the object is invited to send donations to the Secretary, The Navy League, 13, Victoria Street, S.W.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

THE SECRETARY OF THE
NAVY LEAGUE.

London, July 20th, 1896.

THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE AND COPYRIGHT IN PHOTOGRAPHS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I hope you will give me space for a few lines regarding the reproduction of photographs in the illustrated papers. It would be well if the public were to discourage members of the civil service from essaying to win fame

through any such medium, thereby becoming competitors of writers and artists whose legitimate calling it is to supply them. The payment of a shilling or so as the cost of a view does not convey to the purchaser of a photograph the right to reproduce it, and by their doing so it might lead to litigation, which would place a member of the civil service in a somewhat unenviable position. Probably it may be offered in extenuation that the official contributor did not at the time of their despatch to the journals consider the question of interference with the profits of individuals; but this reply is not sufficient for acceptance, as a want of thought on his part if once admitted would seem to point him out as one ineligible for high positions where due consideration is so essential for the proper carrying out of the public work. There are so many serious objections to those in the civil service seeking notoriety by other means than by diligently and capably attending to the details of their highly honourable duties that I can set aside my own interested reasons and could recount half a hundred others. There are two views of the unveiling in the *Graphic*, only one of which was produced in the original photograph by the firm named. The general view is the work of another. But where so many views were submitted to the Art editor bearing no names, this error of description is easily accounted for.

D. K. GRIFFITHS.

Hongkong, 21st August, 1896.

BISHOP PIAZZOLI AND THE VISIT OF THE MACAO COLLEGE BOYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—As a Roman Catholic and a lover of fair play I shall be extremely obliged if you will give publicity to this letter in your next issue, the object of which is to bring to the notice of my co-religionists a most regrettable incident which occurred on Thursday last after the benediction at the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Briefly the facts of the case are as follows. The Rev. Father W. M. Arkwright, S.J., of Macao, together with a few of his companions and pupils of the St. Joseph's College, the latter numbering about eighty, who were then on a visit to this colony, went to assist at the benediction at the Cathedral on that evening, and after having obtained permission from the proper quarter, Father Arkwright allowed his pupils to recite after the benediction the Holy Rosary, at the conclusion of which his pupils asked him to let them sing the holy litany. The rev. gentleman, not seeing any possible harm in this their most laudable request, willingly consented to their doing so, without applying for further permission for this purpose, being completely ignorant that a rehearsal of a cantata with the new organ accompaniment by a few lady and gentlemen amateurs was to take place at six o'clock in the same church. The boys had not got half through the litany when a Chinese member of the church staff, probably the sexton, by command of some of the Italian Fathers approached them with a request to stop it. Father Arkwright, entirely taken by surprise at this most unexpected procedure in a Catholic Church, and not wishing to be guilty of any act which could possibly displease the Italian priests, immediately passed on word to his pupils to cut short the litany by singing the *Agnus Dei*, with a view to bring it to a conclusion and then withdraw from the church. At this stage, however, the Bishop was seen coming from the direction of the vestry very much annoyed, and in a manner most unbecoming to his high position he shouted out the words "Stop that noise" in English to the boys, alluding to the litany which was then being sung with all due reverence to the glory and in praise of the Almighty in the presence of some members of the congregation who had remained in the church to take part in it. The Bishop was probably afraid that were the litany to last a long time it might interfere with the rehearsal of the cantata, and rather than incur the displeasure of his foreign friends, he preferred to see that religious service abruptly terminated!

Having made a full *exposé* of this sad affair I would now ask every right-minded and true

Catholic whether this is not a church scandal; whether the Bishop is not to be reproached for his conduct, which has caused so much dissatisfaction amongst a vast number of the Roman Catholics in this colony; and, further, whether the discourteous treatment which the good Jesuit Fathers and their pupils have received at his hands without any remonstrance whatever was not most unwarrantable. I would finally ask if an act of religious despotism like this will ever receive, when it becomes known, the approval of the high ecclesiastical authority in Papal Rome, to whom the Bishop is subservient and responsible for all his acts, right or wrong, even when committed within the four walls of his church in the Far East, where he seems to resign supreme.

It is indeed a pity that in these enlightened times ministers of religion, whose duty it is to set good examples to those under their care, should be the first to show the reverse. Why then these continual exhortations anent the sound principles of our religion from time immemorial to men, women, and children at churches and at schools, when to the disgust of every one we have in this instance the lamentable fact of a respectable body of about eighty college boys headed by exemplary and friendly priests, their teachers, being publicly and without any justifiable cause stopped from singing a litany half commenced in a public place of worship?

I do not know what has transpired since this regrettable event between the Bishop and Father Arkwright, but it is to be hoped for the credit of the Italian priests in this colony that the former will atone for his error by an honourable apology. On dit that Father Arkwright before his return to Macao on Friday last wrote a letter to the Bishop expressing his regret at his pupils having sung the litany at the church to his annoyance. If this be true, it speaks volumes so far as it relates to the refined education and delicacy of the writer of that letter. It is also a matter of extreme regret that the good Jesuit Fathers and their pupils, who have been so considerably treated by all with whom they have come in contact during their short sojourn in this place, should carry back with them so unpleasant a reminiscence as this little Italian Church episode!

Before concluding this letter I must take this opportunity to declare that it has been written out of a sincere wish only to see that no disrespect should ever be shown to our religion by either the Bishop or any of the members of the Roman Catholic community, and also to express my sympathy as well as that of a great number of my friends with the Jesuit Fathers and their pupils in this little incident, which has no doubt marred to a certain extent the pleasure of their visit to this colony.—Yours,

A MEMBER OF THE ROMAN
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.

Hongkong, 22nd August, 1896.

FIRE ON THE "OOPACK."

Nagasaki, 20th August.

Those who "go down the sea in ships" often have exciting experiences, and the late passage of the steamer *Oopack* from Shanghai to this port shows how narrow are the escapes sometimes met with. The *Oopack* left Shanghai at about 2.30 p.m. on Sunday last, the 16th instant. She had fine weather as far as the Sables, but early the following morning the wind shifted round to the N.E., the barometer began to fall, and some very heavy squalls were encountered. Early on Tuesday morning the Gotos were sighted, but the sea was so bad that attempts were made to put the vessel about. Two unsuccessful attempts were made, and upon the third, at about 9 a.m., three huge seas laid the vessel fairly on her beam ends, and upon her righting herself smoke was seen to be issuing from one of the ventilators near the No. 2 hatch. All the hatches were at once battened down to keep out the air, the ventilators were covered up, the chief engineer was instructed to drive the vessel as hard as possible, while three hoses were kept constantly pouring water into the part of the vessel where the fire appeared to be. At about 9.30 p.m. the steamer *Shanghai* was sighted and a signal for assistance was made to her. She took no notice of this, however, and soon

afterwards went about, Captain H. M. Sommer and the officers of the *Oopack* thinking that she was in distress herself. Everything possible was then done, the heavy seas interfering greatly with the work, but by the time this port was reached, at about 4 p.m., the conflagration was practically got under, and as she steamed up the harbour nothing unusual was to be observed in her appearance. Captain Sommer is loud in praise of the manner in which his efforts were seconded by his officers and crew, and a brief inspection of the scene of the fire is sufficient to show the danger which the vessel has passed through. The mass of charred cotton and cotton seed interspersed with pieces of packing cases, and parts of machinery intermingled in chaotic confusion, go to show not only the extent of the fire, but the terrible knocking about the ship has had. Several of the heavy iron stanchions supporting the deck above have been carried away, one of about 4 inches in diameter having been snapped through. Apparently this was done by a number of heavy boiler plates which were consigned to the Mitsui Bishi Company here. The damage done to the cargo is mostly confined to the cotton and cotton seed, while some cases of cotton spinning machinery for Osaka have been greatly damaged, and their contents scattered about the hold. With the exception of the broken stanchions above mentioned, little damage has been done to the ship, and we understand that she will leave for Kobe to-morrow or the day following. As an instance of the order prevailing on board the vessel, it may be mentioned that when she was boarded by the Custom House officers the usual routine was gone through and they were just about to seal up the No. 2 hatch when they were told that a fire had been burning below all day. That hatch was not sealed up. It is not known how the fire originated, as the cotton was perfectly dry when shipped. Among her cargo we note that the vessel has brought out the keel-plates for the large new steamer to be built shortly by the Mitsui Bishi Company at Tategami.—*Nagasaki Shipping List.*

THE PEI-HO RIVER.

Tientsin, 15th August.

Hearing rumours, supposed to emanate from the "oldest inhabitants," that the river *Pei-ho* is four or five inches higher than it has ever been, and that the current is running two or three knots faster, we are able to furnish, through the courtesy of the Harbour Master, Mr. Susemihl, and others, all taken from correct records, the river's actual height since 1891, and its fastest current since 1892.

The following figures were taken from the fixed tide gauge, in the river opposite the Harbour Master's office, where its readings are taken and registered every two hours night and day (we do not mean that these figures show the depth of the river at any time, but that they simply record its rise and fall from the gauge fixed to the Bunding). The strength of the current is determined by the usual, though old-fashioned, reel log and sand-glass, from a boat anchored in mid-stream.

Year.	Month.	Highest water. ft. in.	Fastest current.
1891,	August	10 4	No record.
1892,	September	15 5	3.3 knots.
1893,	July	15 9	3.8 "
1894,	August	15 10	5.2 "
1895,	September	13 4	4.1 "
1896,	August 14th	15 10	4.5 "

The bed of the river in the upper reaches is scouring out so rapidly that steamers are almost certain to be able to reach the Bund in three or four weeks' time; alongside the *Monocacy* there is twenty feet of water, whereas a few weeks ago she was aground. These events we all welcome.

No accurate information is to hand as to where the river has burst its banks, excepting the right of the Tientsin bend, which has a breach of about three hundred yards, consequently the water is pouring into the country and devastating the fine crops for miles. The tug *Evo* and lighter *Shamrock* are safely stowed away in a field of Kao-liang below this breach, having been driven there by the rush of water.

So far no water appears on the plains on this side of the river.

Boats arriving here from Peking and other places north have made a bee-line for Tientsin, simply crossing the river where it has laid in their course. The low roads in the country round Tong-shan and Shan-hai-kuan are flooded and have now become rivers; but no grave fears need be entertained for the crops, as the natural elevation of the land will soon run the water off.

On Sunday last, August 9th, the rainfall in Tientsin registered 2.224 inches.—*Peking and Tientsin Times.*

AN ADVENTUROUS VOYAGE.

ACROSS THE PACIFIC IN A 22 FT. BOAT.

Yokohama, 10th August.

Captain Ridderbjelke, who was two years ago in command of the sealing schooner *Worlock*, this afternoon commenced his long talked-of voyage across the Pacific in a boat 22 feet long, 2 ft. 6 in. deep, and 5 ft. 7 in. beam. He will first visit the Kurile Islands and then make for Victoria. He has two companions.

11th August.

As reported in our last issue, Captain Ridderbjelke, with two companions, left Yokohama in a small boat yesterday with the object of crossing the Pacific. It is now three years since Captain Ridderbjelke began to make preparations for his intended voyage; the first summer he was almost ready to start when means failed and the expedition had to be postponed. Last year again fate was against him: struggle as he might, no headway was made, so he finally abandoned the attempt for that year and sailed to the Coral Islands in the South Seas. This year he has been more fortunate, and is now off on his perilous voyage. His boat, the *Nadjeska*, formerly belonging to the German ship *Schliemann*, lost a few years ago on Vries Island, has the shape of a whale boat; is 22 feet in length and 5 feet 7 inches beam; is decked over, with a rather large scuttle amidships, where the berths are for Captain Ridderbjelke and his two companions—rather cramped-up quarters. She is rigged as a yawl with mainsail, jib, and jigger. A large Japanese scull is secured on the deck, with which she will be propelled in calm weather. For stormy weather off shore a drag will be used. Many ingenious contrivances are adjusted about the boat for utilizing space and for the protection of life. Several air-tight tanks are secured under the deck on each side, so that she cannot sink, even if she should unfortunately happen to fill with water. Five thousand miles and more will have to be traversed before the voyage is ended, and a man undertaking it must be bold almost to foolhardiness. Captain Ridderbjelke has been rather reticent about the route he intends to take, but will probably follow the course taken a few years ago by Lieutenant Gunji up to the Kuriles and thence across to Alaska. Captain Ridderbjelke will enter the rostrum as a lecturer when he arrives at San Francisco, and should have something interesting to tell of an experience so unique if he gets safely across. There are sceptics, however, who jeer at the whole expedition, and predict a speedy return of Captain Ridderbjelke, with or without the *Nadjeska*.—*Japan Gazette.*

HONGKONG.

There has been much that was interesting in the local events during the past week. In the legal line an important decision was given at the Magistracy respecting opium divans, and at the Supreme Court the Sanitary Board was mulcted in damages to the extent of \$500 for exceeding their powers to enter premises. A Gymkhana meeting was held on Saturday and the Rifle Brigade celebrated their 96th birthday on Tuesday by holding sports, which were followed in the evening by a most successful concert. A shooting party from Hongkong had a very rough experience on the mainland on Sunday, and the attention of the Chinese officials will in all probability be called to the outrageous conduct of over sixty natives, with whom the party had to

fight for liberty. The shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, met on Friday, and the shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, held their half yearly meeting on Monday.

There were 2,140 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 294 were Europeans.

On the 19th August a special bonus of \$25 each was presented to ten Chinese interpreters for special work performed during the plague epidemic this year.

It is notified that H.E. the Governor has given his assent in the name and on behalf of the Queen to the Sale of Foods and Drugs Ordinance.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, C.M.G., has been appointed Vice-President of the Sanitary Board from this date, 24th August.

From noon on Saturday the 15th inst. to noon last Saturday there were seven cases of plague. Five of the patients belonged to the Hongkong Regiment.

Shortly before twelve o'clock on Friday night a cornice on the top storey of Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co's Dispensary fell down. No one was injured. Dry rot or white ants caused the collapse.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. F. Remedios, who was for many years clerk in the firm of Messrs. Wotton and Deacon, fell in Shelley Street and hurt his spine. It is not expected that he will recover.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Ho Ngok Lau	\$50
Fruit and Vegetable Guilds	50
Lum Sui Cho	10

The Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce writes us:—This Chamber is informed by the Colonial Secretary that the following telegram has been received from H.B.M.'s Consul at Amoy:—"Amoy is now free from plague."

Some commotion was caused in Wellington Street on Monday afternoon when a child fell from a house verandah to the pavement. The little one was taken to the hospital, but it is feared that she will succumb to her injuries.

A little girl living in Po Yan Street upset a kerosine lamp on Monday night and was severely burnt that she died in the Tung Wah Hospital a few hours later. Her mother was slightly burnt in endeavouring to extinguish the flames.

Mr. R. O. Furley has just published a very useful "Tourists' Map of Hongkong," in which the roads and footpaths are clearly marked. Descriptions of various walks are given and a short vocabulary to facilitate communication with the natives.

With regard to the sale of the properties of Olivers Mines, Limited, and the New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited, a telegram was sent by Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son on Wednesday to the mines manager asking when the expert was expected at the mines. The reply received reads "Early next week."

Mr. R. C. Wilcox, Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, informs us that according to a letter from H. B. M.'s Consul at Swatow, a copy of which has been courteously forwarded to the Chamber by the Colonial Secretary, the quarantine lately imposed upon passenger ships from Swatow has been removed.

The steamer *Gloucester City*, which arrived at Singapore on the 18th August from China, was, we learn from the *Straits Times*, ordered into dock by Lloyd's surveyor. It appears that in her voyage she touched a sunken wreck, and had the further misfortune of going ashore at Roumania Point, near the Horsburgh Light. The injuries sustained, however, are not supposed to be serious.

Our Anjer correspondent writes:—The German ship *Freiburg*, from New York and bound to Hongkong, when off the Cape of Good Hope encountered very severe weather and had the planks on her port quarter damaged, covering board split, bulwarks damaged, and quarter galleries carried away; deck house damaged and butts showing signs of straining, and had her cargo much damaged.

Inspector Quincey caught eleven gamblers at 9, Wo On Lane, on Thursday night. They were taken before the Magistrate on Friday and one was fined \$25, three were discharged, and the remainder were fined \$2 each. All the defendants were coolies employed by Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co.

Mr. J. S. Von Buren, the local agent for the O. and O. Company, has received information that the *Gaelic* will come to Hongkong to be docked after undergoing temporary repairs at Nagasaki. There is only one dock at Nagasaki and this can be spared only sufficient time to allow the vessel to be temporarily patched. She was expected to go into dock on Monday. She is advertised to leave Hongkong on October 17th.

On the 17th August Mr. J. L. Prosser sold by auction Inland Lot 1,384, which is at the north of Macdonnell Road. The lot contains 33,200 square feet, the annual rent is \$250, and the upset price was \$4,980. The lot was sold to Mr. D. Gob for \$5,000. On the 18th there was some brisk bidding for Inland Lot No. 1,386, Wongneichong valley. The lot contained 7,425 square feet and the annual rent is \$20. The upset price was \$445 and the bidding rose to \$515, when the lot was knocked down to Mr. U Yuk Chi.

The master of the *Sin Tai Koo* launch was summoned at the Police Court on the 21st August for contravening the harbour regulations. The launch waited at Murray Pier and some men from the *Victor Emanuel* who wished to land from their launch were prevented from getting alongside the wharf and had to step over the *Sin Tai Koo* launch. Mr. Dowler, of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, explained that he told the defendant to wait for him at the pier, as he intended to be away for a very short time. The Magistrate inflicted a nominal penalty of 25 cents.

On Sunday the condition of the verandahs at No. 16 Praya Central again caused some excitement. It will be remembered that a short time ago a portion of the verandahs, which were being pulled down, fell, in consequence of the work being commenced at the bottom instead of the top. The remaining portion was then shored up while the work of demolition went on. The arches having now been removed, the pillars showed signs of falling, one of them hanging over the roadway at a very dangerous angle. All traffic past the place was stopped, and Mr. Danby having been consulted, the dangerous pillars were pulled down by means of ropes.

The late Mrs. Mackrill Smith, who died in England on the 20th August, was a resident in Hongkong, Shanghai, and Japan for many years, and has often been heard to tell how, when Consul-General Balfour (afterwards Sir George Balfour) was marking off the streets in the foreign settlement at Shanghai, she urged him to abandon his idea of making them wide enough only for two coolies carrying their burdens to pass each other, and to give width enough for carriages. Her husband was the founder of the *North China Herald*, in August, 1850, and previous to that we believe he had been connected with one of the early journalistic ventures in this colony. One of her daughters, Mrs. Arthur Anderson, is now resident in Hongkong.

Information has been received by the German Consul in Hongkong of the arrest of a quartermaster at Nagasaki on a charge of stealing \$13,000 worth of gold treasure from the German mail steamer *Hohenzollern*. The treasure was placed on board at Yokohama and the box which was supposed to have contained it was transhipped at this port on the *Prince Heinrich* for Bremen. On the arrival of the steamer at Bremen it was found that the treasure had been stolen and a quantity of lead substituted in the box. It was at first supposed that the theft, a very clever one, was committed in Hongkong, but this supposition was a false one. The treasure was placed as usual in the mail room, and two quartermasters who left the ship were suspected. How the robbery was committed is at present a great mystery. There can be no doubt that it was carefully planned, as the seals on the box were intact on arrival at Bremen. However, the arrest of a quartermaster at Nagasaki may clear up the mystery.

At the Police Court on the 19th August James Crossland, a groom, was charged with stealing a horse belonging to Mrs. Wirth. The prisoner was asked to sell the horse and he succeeded in getting a customer at \$15. He pocketed the money and was arrested at night in a Stanley Street house with only \$6 in his possession. He had not been authorised to receive the money. The prisoner said he was engaged last Monday week at a salary of £1 a week and all found. When his wages were due he received only \$2, Mrs. Wirth telling him she could not afford to give him more. He had instructions to sell the horse. The Magistrate told him he had no instructions to keep the money and sent him to gaol for two months with hard labour.

At the Harbour Master's Court on the 18th August a lamp trimmer named William Rawden, of the steamship *Oolong*, was charged with assaulting John Walker, the chief officer of the vessel. Early on Friday morning last, when the ship was at sea, the wind blew very hard and orders were given to take in the awnings and secure No. 3 hatch, which was open because coolies were below. The prosecutor ordered the carpenter and the prisoner to secure the hatch, but the prisoner went to his cabin, leaving the carpenter to do the work himself. When spoken to the prisoner said he was a lamp trimmer and not a carpenter and he would not come out of his cabin for the whole crowd of officers. However, he did come out and struck the prosecutor in the face. The prisoner, who said he did not strike the chief officer, was sent to gaol for four weeks.

A joint committee meeting of the Hongkong Football Club and of the Hongkong Football Competition was held on the 19th August in order to make arrangements for continuing the competition of the past season. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, President of the Hongkong Football Club, presided. It was resolved to institute a permanent shield and to give a gold medal to each member of the winning team. The cost of the shield will be \$300, of the medals \$150, altogether \$500 will be required to institute the permanent trophy and to cover all expenses connected with the carrying out of the fixtures in 1896-7. It is anticipated that this sum will be raised by public subscription with but little difficulty, as the enormous attendances at some of the Cup ties of the previous season form a sufficient indication of the interest taken in, and satisfaction derived from, such tournaments. Subscription lists will be found in the usual places. The Committee selected to carry out all arrangements for the ensuing competition is:—Messrs. P. G. Davies, R.A., E. F. MacKay, J. H. Thresher, R.B., E. E. Deacon, Hon. Treasurer, F. Browne, Hon. Sec., together with a representative of the Navy and a representative of Kowloon Football Club.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

21st August.

It is said that a well-known Chinese resident of this city, not knowing how to make himself more conspicuous, the other day telegraphed to Lisbon requesting the Government to bestow on him a title. According to one account he asked to be made a Baron, according to another he wanted the title of Viscount. Which version is true we will know when the title arrives. The gentleman in question is already a Comendador of the Order of Christ. Go on, my Chinese friends! Open your safes and send your money to Portugal for titles that will cost the Government nothing. Perhaps some of the money sent may come back again and do some good to the colony.

After the last supplement to the *Boletim Official* was issued, notifying the restoration of the former rate of pay to the native soldiers, the men were very happy and wanted to make a public demonstration, but were not allowed by their superiors. The public also were pleased that the increase had been allowed, but they are not pleased with the way the military police service is performed. It is very seldom that a soldier is to be seen patrolling the streets, and we are left quite unprotected. Fortunately the Chinese here are very quiet people; if they were not so the state of

affairs would be lamentable, with no policemen, no watchmen, no protection whatever for the public safety. The Chinese might kill, steal, or do whatever they liked, and no one even know who the perpetrators of the crimes were. Now that the soldiers are getting their old rate of pay the authorities should make them work. For the past few months and up to the present the military service here has been in a very bad state, such as will never be seen elsewhere. As the people here say, "We do not see even a painted soldier at the street corners."

Always when the shooting season begins there are mishaps of one kind or another to be reported. On Monday a Macao youngster wanted to be one of the first to open the sport and went out to Porto do Cerco. When he had got a little distance two Chinamen came up, gave him a blow, stole his gun, and made off. It would be prudent for parents not to allow their children to go out shooting, as this kind of sport is not meant for children.

The postman who a fortnight ago lost a registered letter addressed to a Hongkong lady staying here was placed on his trial for theft, but was found not guilty. For his negligence, however, he was punished with eight days' suspension and loss of pay. Some coolies have reported that the letter was picked up in the street by a Chinese woman, and this is believed to be the truth, because when the woman was summoned she could not be found and it is reported she has left Macao and gone up country.

In my last I referred to the Leal Senado and must again revert to the subject. A few days ago about half-a-dozen Chinese boys were employed in picking the stones off the Praya Grande, but yesterday and to-day no work has been going on, and it would seem that all that the Leal Senado has done was simply intended to throw dust in the eyes of the public. The Leal Senado on the 11th ultimo sent a telegram to Lisbon asking the Government to advance the money for the repair of the sea wall and promising to refund it, but up to the present no answer has been received, which shows how much notice the Lisbon Government take of the matter. Is there in connection with the Leal Senado any one competent to undertake the rebuilding of the Praya wall or that has any knowledge of hydraulic works? No one. There is indeed the Conductor of Municipal Public Works, but this young man's experience in such matters is limited. What we want is for the Leal Senado to begin the rebuilding of the Praya wall as soon as possible and to make a good roadway again so that we may be able to ride comfortably in rickshas. This is the general cry of the public and the Leal Senado cannot go on much longer as it is doing.

Senhor Horta e Costa leaves Lisbon for Marseilles on the 25th inst. to embark by the French mail.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The Commissioner of Customs has issued a notice to the effect that as general post-offices have been ordered to be established throughout China by the Imperial Government, letter carriers' shops in the places where post offices are to be opened must have their shops registered before the 15th day of the 8th moon and apply for a written permit, which will be granted without charge. On registration they must state clearly the names and the native countries of their masters; when and where their shops were opened; how much they charge for postage; how long they will take to carry a letter to a certain place; and what are the names of their branch shops and their agents. Letter-carriers' shops in the places where post offices are not to be opened are allowed to carry on their business as usual without registration.

The Provincial Treasurer and the Provincial Judge have jointly issued a notification to the effect that as counterfeit coins are often found among the currency any person who gives information leading to the arrest of the false coin makers, together with their machines and appliances, will be rewarded with one thousand dollars; that a handsome reward will be given

to those who help to effect the arrest of any well-known false-coin maker without the production of the appliances as proof; that a reward of four hundred dollars will be given to those who assist in the capture of persons who intend to pass false coins; that those who refrain from giving to the Government information in their possession concerning false-coin making houses are to receive the same penalty as the false-coin makers receive; and that false-coin makers who themselves come forward and admit their offences and promise to give up their evil ways are not only to be pardoned but slightly rewarded.

On the 4th instant another typhoon was experienced in the prefecture of Kuchow. In the villages named Sui-tung and Moi-luk a good number of trees were uprooted and over five hundred houses were blown down. The number of lives lost is about sixty and over one hundred boats were capsized. Great damage has also been done by the typhoon in a village named Ng-chun, where over one hundred houses collapsed.

It is said that the Government is thinking of abolishing the likin tax levied on oil, for oil is now very dear and it is an article in daily use. The likin taxes levied on rice and firewood were abolished some time ago.

The plague hospital which was established by the Provincial Treasurer at his own expense in the theatre in Nam-kwan, where no performances have been given for a long time, has been closed.

On the 16th instant a rich man living in Honam received a letter from some robbers asking for two hundred taels. The letter said that if their demand were not complied with within three days from date they would come to burn his house. The rich man, who was terribly frightened, immediately removed his family.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Foochow Echo announces that Mr. Gustav Siemssen has been appointed full Consul for Germany at that port.

At Shanghai on the 16th August some Portuguese boys were bathing at Pootung when one of them, a lad of twelve named J. De Souza, got out of his depth and was drowned.

As an illustration showing how the English language is appreciated by the Chinese we may mention that even in such a remote province as Szechuen two schools have been opened above Chungking to teach English.—*China Gazette*.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—It is reported that the dinner to H.E. Li at the Crystal Palace was given by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and that the Directors of that Bank appropriated the sum of £6,000 for the entertainment of the ex-Viceroy in London.

A sad fatality occurred on board the *Ravenna* at Shanghai on the night of the 17th August. The fourth engineer, Mr. Inglis, was lying asleep on the starboard gangway, when shortly after 11 o'clock he was seen by the quartermaster on watch to fall overboard. The quartermaster immediately gave the alarm, and four boats were sent away, but returned after a prolonged search without success.

The *Kuansai Shogyo Nippo* notes that all the cotton-spinning mills in Japan are suffering from a dearth of female "hands." The Okayama cotton-spinning company have engaged a number of nurses to look after the young children of the female employees, in order to induce married women to take employment. This will give an idea of the scarcity of female labour.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—Peking is in an appalling condition, and all the Legations are at the Hills. Thereby hangs a tale: the British legation people have lost their usual convenient and commodious temple. A short time ago the Russians offered the native proprietors considerably higher terms, and of course got it. Not much has been said about this, but a good deal has been thought: it cannot be reduced to a formal grievance, but none the less obvious is it that (1) three or four years ago such a proceeding would have been impossible; (2) the British would not have done such a thing to their neighbours.

We (*Nagasaki Shipping List*) learn upon what may be considered reliable authority that the steamer *Taiyick* has been purchased by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and is to be placed upon the Formosan line. She is to be handed over to her new owners in the course of a few days. The vessel was built in Germany in 1890, is of 1,430 tons gross, 224 feet long, of 750 h.p., and can steam a little over twelve knots.

Mr. Carl Bock, the Consul-General for Norway and Sweden, having been relieved of the duties of Consul for Denmark at Shanghai at his own request, a successor has, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, been appointed in the person of Captain A. L. Smith, who for a number of years was *attaché* to the Danish special mission which came to China under General Raaslöff. Captain Smith is expected shortly.

Sir Robert Hart is said to be endeavouring to extend to the Chinese the Transit Pass system on native goods from the interior. Hitherto this privilege has been enjoyed only by foreign merchants. It is said that the fact of many foreigners having lent their names to natives in order to evade paying likin on native exports from inland has led Sir Robert to make this change. The change will be one in the right direction.—*China Gazette*.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 12th August says:—The first issue of the new postage stamps bearing the portraits of the late Princes Arisugawa and Kitashirakawa, 3,117,000 in number, was sold out immediately and a second issue of 1,466,000 has been ordered. It will, however, be some time before these are issued, as the Printing Bureau is pressed with other work. The new stamps being mementos of a remarkable historical event they have been eagerly purchased by people of all countries in the world, especially by Americans, who applied to the Department of Communications for a considerable quantity. A large portion of the second issue is expected to go abroad.

A correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—We hear that the Whasang trouble of last year shows signs of a resuscitation, and some of the old offenders who were not punished are beginning to hold up their heads again. This time they say they will leave the foreigners alone and will wreak their pent-up vengeance upon the native Christians. It is to be hoped the English and American Governments will act promptly and prevent by such action any further outbreak. It is the everywhere expressed opinion here that the officials have not taken the lessons of last year to heart, as is only too likely, for few of them, if any, have been punished in any way. The Viceroy has a bad name as very anti-foreign, and utterly unwilling to act in any case unless compelled by external force.

Upon the arrival of the steamer *Saikyo-maru* at Kobe from Shanghai, on the 12th August, it was reported that there had been a mutinous outbreak on board while she was at Shimonoseki. The boatswain had refused to obey the orders of the chief officer, with the result that he was paid off and sent ashore. As soon as he had gone the rest of the crew refused for some time to turn to, but after a while were persuaded to get the vessel under weigh. Captain Conner then mustered all hands and warned them. Afterwards, about a dozen of the men broke in the door of the chief officer's room, when that gentleman discharged a revolver. The men then rushed upon him in a body, and were about to throw him overboard, when the captain and others arrived and rescued him from their clutches.

A remarkable feat in long-distance telegraphy was achieved on Friday evening, 14th August, when Sheng Taotai in Shanghai had a conversation with his great patron, H.E. Li Hung-chang in London. The Indian Government placed its wires at the disposal of the experiment, and the result was that the communication, some human relays being used, was made in about or under two minutes, though the exact times have not yet been received from London. H.E. Li Hung-chang sent 85 words, which, after retransmission by eleven human relays, reached Shanghai in 12½ minutes, actual time. Sheng Taotai's reply amounted to 94 words, which took seven minutes in reaching Greenwich, with the same number of retransmissions.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A new morning paper has been established at Shanghai, called the *Shanghai Daily Press*. The last verse of "The Flag, red, white, and red," sung by the *Illis* sailors as they went down, is rendered into English by the *N. C. Daily News* as follows:—

And should the might of wild, wild storms
On to a reef us drive,
And dangers menace—'t matters not.
From where—our ship and life;
Our posts we never will desert
And sailor-like and true
Until the last breath goes from us
We will our duty do.
And, joyful dying then we shout
United true in death—
The Kaiser and our standard *Hoch!*
The flag black, white, and red!

There was some very close racing between the British ship *Drumeltan*, 1,980 tons (Capt. Smit), and the American ship *El Capitan*, 1,419 tons (Capt. Carver), both of which arrived at Shanghai on the 18th inst., laden with case oil for the Standard Oil Company, from New York. Both ships cleared from that port on the same day, 29th March, and the two got aground at the same time in the Hudson River, but both got off without trouble or damage, and put to sea on their long race across the North and South Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, during which they never sighted each other once. Yet they arrived within five minutes of one another at Anjer Head. They left there, after a few hours' delay, for Shanghai, the *El Capitan* arriving at Woosung only one tide ahead of the *Drumeltan*.—*China Gazette*.

The province of Hunan, the home of the celebrated or rather notorious Chou Han, which stands out as the most obstinate and anti-progressive region in China, where conservatism is dear as life and western science regarded as an enemy, will at last have something of the arts of the "barbarians" planted therein. We hear the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration is going to extend its lines to that province—this time with nothing, we suppose, of that sort of resistance that they experienced in the 17th year of Kwang Hsu, when the telegraph poles erected with the sacred words "established by order of the Emperor" conspicuously painted on them, were pulled down no sooner than put up, as being injurious to the *fungshui* of the Hunanese.—*China Gazette*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 25th August.—Macao Congous.—Business during the past fortnight amounts only to 1,200 boxes at Tls. 11-17 per picul, showing no change. The market continues to be very poorly supplied, but there is no general demand. For Australia there is a little enquiry, but only for lines. For the Continent and South America very moderate shipments are going forward. Scented Capers.—A moderate business has been passing, settlements being reported at 22,000 boxes at Tls. 24-26 per picul, making a total to date of 149,000 boxes against 172,000 boxes to the same time last year. The advance in Common and Medium grades noted in our last report has not been maintained, prices having ruled easier, and the market closes weak. Stocks in native hands are estimated at not over 50,000 boxes, consisting largely of the better grades. Scented Orange Pekoes.—The only business reported is a few small parcels for Colonial and Continental orders.

SHANGHAI, 21st August.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s circular).—Our last printed Tea market advices were under date 7th instant. Black Tea.—Our market continues quiet, but steady. The lowest quotation for whole leaf Tea is Tls. 10½ a picul. Second crop Kutoans have received some attention at Tls. 18 to 18½ a picul, and a few second crop Keemuns at Tls. 17½ to 20 a picul. Settlements are chiefly for shipment to America. The *Tambo*, the first Russian steamer for Batoum, leaves today, and will call at Colombo for about 1,000 tons of Ceylon Tea for the Russian markets.

Settlements reported are:—
Ningchow, 993 1-cht. at Tls. 14.00 to 18.75 a picul.
Keemun, 100 " " 17.75 to 20.00 " "
Huhow, 775 " " 11.75 to 15.00 " "
Kutoan, 1,233 " " 13.00 to 13.25 " "
Oonam, 1,432 " " 10.25 to 14.00 " "

Total 5,318 1- chests.

Stock—20,262 half chests.

Green Teas.—The Ping-tuey market was opened on the 10th instant, on about the same range of prices as were refused some two months since. The delay has profited the Teamen nothing, and they must be as disappointed at the smallness of the demand as much as by their failing to enhance values. The market closes with rather more doing; prices are nominally unchanged, but are in favour of buyers.

In Country Teas a fair business has been done at about opening prices in all descriptions. Finest and choice Moyunes have attracted most attention, and chops of these have been taken at full prices almost as soon as they were shown. Medium Moyunes are poor in water, and in appearance; a considerable decline is necessary in these descriptions before they can become satisfactory property. Tienkai have been dealt in to a greater extent than we thought probable owing to their want of character. Second packs are beginning to arrive, and show a considerable improvement over the first packs in flavour. Fychows have been bought down to Tls. 13 a picul. The market closes quiet with a downward tendency, and in some cases a decline of Tl. 1 to Tl. 2 has been accepted.

Local Packs and Wenchows have found buyers at what appear to be moderate prices.

Hysons.—On the morning of the 18th an unexpected demand sprang up, and prices for all descriptions advanced rapidly; finest and choice may be quoted Tls. 2 to Tls. 3 over last mail's prices, the market being temporarily bare of stocks.

Settlements reported since 7th ult:—
 Pingsuey ... 14,172 1/2 cts. at Tls. 15.00 to 28.00 a picul.
 Moyune ... 11,421 " " 18.00 to 35.00 "
 Tienkai ... 6,444 " " 18.00 to 31.00 "
 Fychow ... 713 " " 13.00 to 16.50 "
 Local P'ked. 744 " " 14.50 to 18.00 "

Total ... 33,494 1/2 cts.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Canton and Macao	2,500,304	3,991,193
Shanghai and Hankow	13,587,568	13,607,320
Foochow	5,976,756	7,509,809
	22,464,628	25,108,322

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai	3,936,356	11,994,717
Amoy	6,998,012	5,903,384
Foochow	1,131,222	1,608,212
	12,065,590	19,506,313

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,541,381	26,706,242

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Yokohama	14,624,910	19,829,325
Kobe	6,707,867	11,130,509
	21,332,777	30,959,834

SILK.

CANTON, 26th July.—Tsatlee.—Holders ask \$10 per picul more, and no business has been reported for Europe. Re-reels.—A purchase of 15 bales No. 2 was made early in the fortnight at \$455. No. 1 is held for relatively higher rates than the other grades. There is scarcely any enquiry. Filatures.—Have continued is good demand for Lyons. Owing to the high prices paid for 4th crop cocoons, reellers are doing their utmost to uphold values. The low exchange facilitated business and allowed an advance of \$10-15 per picul for the outgoing mail. We quote: \$595 for Shing King Lun 9/11, and Caeong Kee 9/11, \$575 for Chung Sun Bang, 10/12 and Quan Kwong Kee 9/11, \$560 for Kum King Ching 13/15, \$525 for Yee Wo Doong 16/20, \$475 for Yu Yee Lun 26/30, \$455 for King Lun 18/22. Waste.—Steam Waste continues in good demand and all sorts have met with some attention owing to low exchange. Stocks:—1,300 bales; Filature, 2,500 bales. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 6 months' sight 2/24 and Fcs. 2.75 per Dollar:—

Tsatlee	No. 1	\$440	= 8/84
	No. 2	\$125	= 8/54
	No. 3	\$40	= 8/24
	No. 4	\$395	= 7/114
	No. 4 1/2	\$390	= 7/104
	No. 5	\$380	= 7/84

Filature 1st class	11/13...	\$600 to \$590
1st "	13/15...	\$600 to \$590
2nd "	9/11...	\$600 to \$595
2nd "	10/12...	\$585 to \$580
2nd "	13/15...	\$510
2nd "	10/12...	\$565 to \$555
3rd "	11/13...	\$495 to \$475
3rd "	13/15...	\$495 to \$475

Re-reel Lacklow	No. 1	\$485
	No. 2	\$470
	No. 3	\$455
	No. 4	\$435

Mahang	No. 1	\$435
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Punjun Books	No. 3 & 4	\$72
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Punjun Waste	Extra	\$63
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Steam Waste	Extra	\$90
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Market Extra	No. 1	\$72
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Gum Waste	No. 2	\$50
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Pierced Cocoons		\$62
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Settlements for the fortnight:—		
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	1896-97.	1895-96.
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For Europe	1,100 bales	1,200 bales.
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For America	50 "	500 "
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For Bombay	230 "	300 "
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MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Strathnevis*, Hongkong to New York, 12th August, took:—3,914 packages Crackers, 52 cases Chinaware, 20 cases Bristles, 20 packages Matting, and 362 packages Merchandise.

The German steamer *Bellona*, Hongkong to Havre, 12th August, took:—5 cases Human Hair, 25 cases Lith. Paper, 81 rolls Matting, 22 cases Paper, 40 cases Chinaware, 100 cases Cassia, 376 bales Canes; for Havre option Hamburg:—33 bales Goatskin-rugs, 5 bales Human Hair, 53 cases Chinaware, 1 case Silk, 35 cases Paper, 100 bales Canes; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—25 bales Canes, 180 cases Bristles, 239 boxes Camphor, 70 bales Rattan Shavings, 2 boxes Samples of Tea; for Havre &/or Hamburg &/or London &/or Antwerp:—30 cases Bristles, 140 bales Feathers; for Hamburg:—33 cases Skin, 4 cases Human Hair, 493 bales Canes, 15 bales Palm bark, 30 cases Bristles, 5 cases Silk, 9 cases Tea, 2 cases China Ink, 213 rolls Matting, 30 cases Palmleaffan, 16 cases Woodware, 11 cases Chinaware, 161 cases Camphor, 20 cases Fans, 3,500 cases Cassia, 200 bales Rattan, 20 packages Sundries; for Hamburg option London:—6 cases Bristles, 123 cases Gullnits; for Bremen:—10 cases Bristles; for Antwerp:—10 cases Soy; for London:—10 cases Staranised Oil, 7 boxes Camphor, 18 boxes Bristles; for Lisbon:—14 packages China and Lacquerware; for New York:—49 cases Essential Oil.

The German steamer *Sachsen*, Hongkong to Colombo, 18th August, took:—50 cases Preserves; for Port Said:—50 packages Chairs; for Genoa:—50 bales Canes; for Trieste:—100 bales Waste Silk; for Milan:—1 bale Waste Silk; for Christiania:—3 cases Screens; for Lisbon:—3 cases Chinaware, 1 case Japanese Curios; for Antwerp:—100 cases Gullnits, 70 bales Feathers, 50 chests Tea, 23 packages Merchandise, 15 boxes Chinaware, 2 cases Leaf-tobacco, 1 case Cigars, 1 case Curios; for Amsterdam:—27 cases Chinaware, 2 packages Rikstraw; for Rotterdam:—2 cases Leaf-tobacco; for Bremen:—180 rolls Matting, 3 packages Tea, 1 case Musical Instruments, 1 case Cigars; for Bremen/Hamburg:—10 boxes China-paper; for Hamburg:—500 packages Fire-crackers, 34 bales Feathers, 15 boxes Essential Oil, 1 case Samples; for London:—50 cases Bulbs; for Rio de Janeiro:—3 chests Tea and 1 case Samples.

The French steamer *Salazie*, Hongkong to Continent, 19th August, took:—545 bales Silk, 10 bales Hair, 19 cases Silk Piece Goods, 1 case Bristles, 11 packages Tea, 8 packages Canes, 102 rolls Matting, and 10 cases Curios.

The American ship *Manuel Llaguno*, Hongkong to New York, 20th August, took:—21,667 rolls Matting, 2,500 packages Fire-crackers, 200 cases Cassia, 100 cases Heather Scrubs, and 12 cases Woodware.

The steamer *Prometheus*, Hongkong to London, 20th August, took:—5,836 boxes Tea (120,006 lbs. Congou and Scented Caper), 300 packages (no Particulars), 10 cases Essential Oil, 82 cases Condensed Milk, 25 Cigars, 25 cases Preserves, 70 rolls Matting, 2,000 bales Hemp, 100 packages Canes, and 18 packages Sundries; for London option Manchester:—50 bales Waste Silk; for Liverpool:—1,000 bales Hemp and 6 packages Sundries; for Glasgow:—9 packages Effects.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 26th August.—Bengal.—There has been a steady business during the interval and prices are unchanged, New Patna closing at \$717, Old at \$720, and New Benares at \$735.

Malwa.—Very old descriptions have advanced in value, whilst New has been neglected. The following are current rates:—

New	.....\$730 with allance of 3 1/2 to 5 cts.
Old (2 1/2 yrs.)	\$740 " 1 to 4 1/2 "
Old (6 1/2 yrs.)	\$790 " 1/2 to 2 "
Persian.	There have been a few transactions at quotations and the market closes steady, latest figures being \$550 to \$590 for Oily and \$560 to \$65 for Paper wrapped drug according to quality. To day's stocks are estimated as under:—
New Patna	.....1,970 chests.
Old Patna	.....140 "
New Benares	.....80 "
Old Benares	.....8 "
Malwa	.....1,800 "
Persian	.....540 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Aug. 19	117½	722½	737½	—	730	740 790
Aug. 20	120	722½	737½	—	730	740 790
Aug. 21	117½	720	740	—	730	740 790
Aug. 22	117½	720	737½	—	730	740 790
Aug. 23	115	720	737½	—	730	740 790
Aug. 24	112½	717½	735	—	730	740 790
Aug. 25	117½	720	732½	—	730	740 790
Aug. 26	117½	720	735	—	730	740 790

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 26th August.—Owing to a most irregular exchange the market for Cotton has been unreliable. At the same time the volume of business put through cannot be said to have been unsatisfactory as the figures at foot show. Stocks in hand are now very small, and higher prices may be looked forward to. Stock: Bengal, about 800 bales.

Bombay	\$13.00 to 16.00 p. pl.
Kurrachee	12.50 to 15.50 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and	
Dacca	15.00 to 16.55 "
Shanghai and Japanese.	17.50 to 19.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.	17.50 to 19.50 "
Madras	13.90 to 16.00 "
Sales: 1,200 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca.	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th August.—Supplies are larger and prices are declining. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	per picul.
Round, good quality	\$2.22 to 2.25
Long	2.49 to 2.51
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.61 to 2.65
Garden, No. 1	2.28 to 2.30
White	2.74 to 2.76
Fine Cargo	2.95 to 2.97
	3.30 to 3.83

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th August.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—55 bales No. 8 at \$64 to \$69.50, 1,435 bales No. 10 at \$72.50 to \$95, 380 bales No. 12 at \$77.81 to \$81.50, 420 bales No. 16 at \$84 to \$92, 555 bales No. 20 at \$93 to \$96.50. Grey Shirtings.—600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss B at \$2.92½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$2.92½, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Horse and Gun at \$3.40, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Angle at \$3.67½, 1,250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.80, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.82½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$3.85, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Chang Way at \$3.87½. White Shirtings.—500 pieces X. 6 at \$3.55, 500 pieces X. 7 at \$3.80, 750 pieces X. 8 at \$4.25, 500 pieces S.Q. at \$4.27½, 1,000 pieces Flower at \$4.71½ to \$1.72½, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.80, 500 pieces D.F. at \$4.75, 500 pieces Sea Otter at \$1.67½, 500 pieces 48 Reeds at \$2.50, 750 pieces Man and Lion at \$4.35, 500 pieces S.S. at \$4.47½, 750 pieces No. 7 at \$3.90, 250 pieces Flag at \$4.10. T. Cloths.—50½ pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Blue Dragon at \$2.62½, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Crown at \$2.27½, 900 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican V.V. at \$2.90, 480 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Red Moon at \$2.82½, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Blue Dragon B.B. at \$2.25, 500 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay at \$1.60. Long Ells.—375 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.50, 500 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.90 to \$6.95, 250 pieces 8 lbs. 4 Cocks Scarlet at \$12.50, 600 pieces 8 lbs. 5 Cocks Scarlet at \$6.95. Camlets.—80 pieces 9 Birds Scarlet at \$12.50, 100 pieces 2 Ells Assorted at \$13, 100 pieces 5 Cocks Scarlet at \$13.25.

METALS:—Yellow Metal.—100 cases New 14/20 ozs. at \$26, 20 cases at \$69.50. Iron.—200 kegs wire nails, fine, at \$5.65. Tin.—200 slabs 1 cong-chai at \$33 to \$33.10, 100 slabs Siam at \$22.90.

COTTON YARN.	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$68.00 to \$67.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	100.00 to 105.00
" 22 to 24	103.00 to 108.00
" 28 to 32	114.00 to 119.00
" 38 to 42	118.00 to 126.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS.	per piece
Grey Shirtings—Glbs.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs.	1.75 to 1.95
8½ lbs.	2.00 to 3.00
9 to 10 lbs.	3.20 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.15 to 2.35
58 to 60 "	2.50 to 3.10
64 to 66 "	3.00 to 3.50
Fine	3.90 to 6.90
Book-folds.	3.20 to 5.40

Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.60 to 1.25
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs. (32 ")	1.80 to 2.95
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ")	2.15 to 2.40
8 to 8½lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.05
Drills, English—40 yds, 13½ to 14lbs.	3.20 to 4.30

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.	1.20 to 3.50
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Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to 4.50 per yard
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Damasks	0.12 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21 to 0.28
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.20 per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.40 to 0.85
WOOLLENS	per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.55 to 0.95
German	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 3.50

Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 8.00 per piece
Assorted	6.60 to 8.10
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 27.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches.	10.00 to 18.00
Assorted	

Orleans—Plain	3.00 to 3.60 per pair
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Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	4.80 to 8.40
METALS	per picul

Iron—Nail Rod	8.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar	— to —
Swedish Bar	— to —
Small Round Rod	— to —
Hoop	— to —
Old Wire Rope	— to —
Lead, Australian	6.70 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	27.00 to —
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	26.50 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	26.50 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	— to —
Tin	— to —

Tin-Plates	5.10 to — per box
Steel	4.25 to — per cwt. case
SUNDRIES	per picul

Quicksilver	102.00 to —
Window Glass	3.50 to — per box
Kerosene Oil	2.90 to 1.92 per 10-gal. case

SHANGHAI, 13th August.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—There is very little to report about the state of the market, as business may be said to be at a dead lock. The sudden advance in the price of Cotton came as a surprise to most people engaged in the import trade, but this movement sinks into insignificance when compared with the latest vagary of exchange, which has taken such a downward rush that business is practically prohibited. There are still no definite reasons to hand why Cotton should have made the recent advance, but it would appear that there is some good cause for it as advices to-day bring the quotation as 4½d. Exchange closed last week at 2/11½d. and during the week has been quoted as low as 2/10½d., but at the time of writing it is rather stronger again, 2/11d. being easily obtainable. Under such violent fluctuations it is useless to think of business and the only alternative is to leave matters alone until they adjust themselves. Meanwhile dealers are clearing goods in a very satisfactory way, but they too have now reason to act with caution, as demand from the various Outports has improved during the week, and several holders have refused to entertain any offer for their unsold stock until they see some reasonable chance of replacing. Prices at auction are slowly responding to the present position, and they are likely to improve while importers are kept off the market. Advices from America report a strong and advancing market, while recent quotations from Manchester will admit of no business on the present basis of prices here.

METALS.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s report.—21st August.)—There is very little to report in the way of improvement in metals and none at all in sundries. The general rise at home accounts in some manner for the apathy of native dealers; they will hold on while any stock remains on hand, believing that rates are certain to return to the prices of six or nine months ago. When the present stocks in the hands of dealers are finished, or nearly so, the usual reaction must result; and in spite of the sharp competition amongst the

commission houses we may again hope to see remunerative rates established. The collapse of the land boom, the worst of which is now over, will also release a certain amount of capital which will help the turn of events very considerably. On the whole the outlook is more favourable than it has been for a good while past, and it is almost a certainty that the next month or two will see a sharp revival in almost every branch of trade.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 26th August.—The market during the week under review has continued fairly active and although no important transactions have taken place stocks have been pretty generally dealt in at steadily ruling rates. At time of closing a slight, or an inclination to, weakness is apparent.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled at from 184 to 185 per cent. prem. ex div. with sales at both rates and at 184½. At time of closing small sales are reported at 184½, but larger lots are, we believe, obtainable at 184. We have heard of no time transactions. The latest London rate is £42 5s. ex div.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Sales of China Traders' at \$80 have taken place and more shares are probably procurable at the rate. Straits, Unions, Cantons, and the Northern Insurances remain unchanged without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's have ruled inactive but steady at \$332½ and China Fires weak with sales at \$95.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have changed hands in fair lots at \$33½ and \$33¼ cash, the latter being the ruling rate; on time shares have changed hands at \$35 and \$34½ for January in fair lots and for December at \$34½; market closes with sellers at \$33½. Indo-Chinas have continued dull and neglected with a falling market and, as far as we know, no business; at time of closing shares are obtainable at \$46. China Manilas continue in request at \$71, with sellers at \$72; we have heard of no sales. Douglasses in the early part of the week ruled nominally firm at \$65½ to \$66 without as far as we know any authentic sales; at time of writing a few shares on offer failed to secure a better rate than \$64½, at which some few parcels changed hands. China Mutuals remain neglected without business.

REFINERIES.—With rumours that the China Sugar Refinery had wiped off the debit balance of last working account the shares rapidly rose from \$111½ to \$117 with sales at those and intermediate rates; market closes rather quieter with probable sellers at \$116. Luzons continue on the downward track without business, and shares are now obtainable at \$64.

MINING.—Punjoms have continued very quiet with small sales at \$14.25 and \$14.50, closing at the former rate. Preferences have found buyers and are still wanted in a small way at \$3.80. With the exception of Jelebus, which have changed hands in small lots at \$2.90, we have nothing else to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have improved their position in the course of the week, sales having been effected at 194, 194½, and 195 for cash and end of the month cum. div., and at 183, 184, and 185 per cent. prem. ex div. Time sales have been effected for October at 186, November at 187½, and February at 194 per cent. prem. ex div. At time of writing shares are obtainable at 185 or possibly at 184½, whilst buyers vainly offer 184. We learn that although not quite definitely fixed, the Gaelic, which recently got on shore in the Straits of Shiminoseki and is now undergoing temporary repairs at Nagasaki, will in all probability come down here to complete her repairs and to take her place on the line. Four Japanese steamers are also reported to be coming down for repairs. Kowloon Wharves have ruled quiet at \$55 cum div. and \$53½ ex div. with small sales. Wanchais have been neglected at \$45 to \$46.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—We have heard of no sales of Hongkong Lands, but shares have been on offer during the week at \$74½ and \$74, closing with sellers at latter rate. Hotels have found small buyers at \$29½. West Points at \$18, and Humphreys at \$9.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been enquired for at \$17½, but we have heard of

For LONDON.—*Shanghai* (str.), *Formosa* (str.),
Borneo (str.), *Myrmidon* (str.), *Glenesk* (str.), *Benn
larig* (str.), *Diomed* (str.), *Glenfruin* (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—*Yarra* (str.), *Ellen Rickmers*
(str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Sutlej* (str.), *Belgic* (str.).
China (str.).

For HAVRE.—*Flintshire* (str.).
 For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).
 For BREMEN.—*Bayern* (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—*Charles E. Moody*, *Paul Revere*,
Josephus Benmohr (str.).
 For BALTIMORE.—*Isaac Reed*, *Helen Brewer*
 (str.).
 For AUSTRALIA.—*Taiyuan* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

August—

ARRIVALS.

18, Merionethshire, Brit. str., from Mororan.
 18, Prometheus, British str., from Amoy.
 18, Menmuir, British str., from Kobe.
 18, St. Mark, Amr. ship from New York.
 18, Pingsuey, British str., from Liverpool.
 19, Amara, British str., from Canton.
 19, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 19, Apenrade, German str., from Saigon.
 19, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
 19, Tientsin, British str., from Singapore.
 20, Kiangpak, British str., from Canton.
 20, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
 20, Ask, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 20, Senta, German str., from Kobe.
 20, Cheang Hye Teng, Brit. str., from S'pore.
 20, Asloun, British str., from Nagasaki.
 20, Borneo, British str., from Yokohama.
 20, Tailee, German str., from Canton.
 20, Braemar, British str., from Tacoma.
 20, S. D. Carleton, Amr. ship, from N. York.
 20, Azamor, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 21, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 21, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
 21, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 21, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 21, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., from Bombay.
 21, Wm. H. Smith, Amr. ship, from N. York.
 21, Glamorganshire, British str., from Amoy.
 21, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
 22, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 22, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 23, Canton, British str., from London.
 23, China, German str., from Saigon.
 23, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 23, Kansu, British str., from Chinkiang.
 23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 23, Ningchow, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 24, Kashing, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Nerite, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.
 24, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 24, Bayern, German str., from Bremen.
 24, Mathilde, German str., from Pakhoi.
 24, Vorwaerts, German str., from Cebu.
 24, China, British str., from San Francisco.
 25, Aucona, British str., from Yokohama.
 25, Ravenna, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Myrmidon, British str., from Foochow.
 25, Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 25, Glaucus, British str., from Liverpool.
 25, Paul Revere, Amr. ship, from Shanghai.
 26, Swatow, German str., from Yokohama.
 26, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
 26, Adour, French str., from Shanghai.
 26, Oslo, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 26, Letimbro, Italian str., from Bombay.
 26, Anjer Head, British str., from Singapore.
 26, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
 26, Feiching, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, Redpole, British g-bt., from a cruise.

August—

DEPARTURES.

19, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 19, Germania, German str., for Swatow.
 19, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 19, Salazie, French str., for Europe.
 19, Strathallan, British str., for Hongay.
 19, Ghazee, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Oolong, British str., for Amoy.
 19, Siam, British str., for Saigon.
 19, Reina Cristina, Spanish cr., for Manila.
 20, Pingsuey, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 20, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 20, Manuel Llaguno, Amr. ship, for N. York.
 20, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Prometheus, British str., for London.
 20, Riojun Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 20, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Cheang Hye Teng, British str., for Amoy.

21, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Kriemhilde, German str., for Yokohama.
 21, Tailee, German str., for Saigon.
 21, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
 22, Meunuir, British steamer, for Australia.
 22, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 22, Socotra, British ship, for San Francisco.
 22, Isly, French cruiser, for Amoy.
 22, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Redpole, British gunboat, for Swatow.
 22, Amara, British str., for Singapore.
 22, Borneo, British str., for London.
 22, Crown of Arragon, Brit. str., for London.
 22, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 22, Glamorganshire, British str., for London.
 23, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 23, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.
 23, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Senta, German str., for Hamburg.
 23, Sullberg, German str., for Vladivostock.
 23, Utrecht, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 24, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
 24, Kashing, British str., for Canton.
 24, Kiangpak, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 24, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 24, Shigaura Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 24, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 25, Merionethshire, Brit. str., for Yokohama.
 25, Kwongsang, British str., for Amoy.
 25, Wandering Jew, Amr. ship, for Amoy.
 25, Doric, British str., for San Francisco.
 25, Azamor, British str., for Moji.
 25, Canton, British str., for Yokohama.
 25, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 25, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 25, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
 26, Myrmidon, British str., for London.
 26, Arisoura Maru, Jap. str., for Amoy.
 26, Bayern, German str., for Shanghai.
 26, Hohenzollern, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 26, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 26, Braemar, British str., for Tacoma.
 26, Nerite, British str., for Singapore.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Kriemhild*, str., from Hamburg—Messrs. Binder, Schmidt, and Bankal.
 Per *Salazie*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Messrs. Defaix, Zun Pun, Da Silva, Mr. and Mrs. Sugden, Capt. and Mrs. Woodcock, Messrs. Spens, Black, Gensburger, R. P. Martinet, Mr. and Mrs. Collaco, Mrs. Chilot, Sister Marie, and Miss Muller. For Saigon—Mr. Saillard, Sisters Isaac and Helene Joseph. For Singapore—Mr. Gray. For Bombay—Messrs. Forbes and Mascarenas. For Port Said—Messrs. Parenago, Lubba, Baron Jurgensberg, and Mrs. Grakowa. For Marseilles—Messrs. White, Cuissart, Degoste, Honjo, Fujinami, Amoyi, Nambo, Suzuki, Otari, Morishima, Komiyama, Dubousquet, Coepel, Abe, Mr. and Mrs. Abezaminoff, and Mr. and Mrs. Durand.
 Per *Ping Suey*, str., from Singapore—Mr. T. Webster.
 Per *St. Mark*, ship, from New York—Mr. H. N. Sawyer, Jr.
 Per *Kwongsang*, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mr. Buck.
 Per *Thales*, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Mr. Dinshaw.
 Per *Borneo*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong—Mr. Kaase. From Kobe for Singapore Rev. W. Clark and Miss Clark. From Amoy for Hongkong—Mr. Marshall.
 Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., for Hongkong from Bombay—Miss Skinner. From Penang—Messrs. Low Ah Sum, Yew Ah Khuan, and Yew Ah Yong. From Singapore—Messrs. Sue Twa Two and Wong You Man. For Manila from Colombo—Mr. F. Casanorax. For Yokohama from Colombo—Rev. J. S. Matoda and K. Hayakawa. From Singapore—Mr. E. C. Welch. For Shanghai from Colombo—Messrs. Champion and Heron, Mr. and Mrs. Stahlgren.
 Per *Namoa*, str., from Coast Ports—Rev. G. Nevix.
 Per *Wm. H. Smith*, ship, from New York—Mr. Hamond Braman.
 Per *Canton*, str., from London—Messrs. Gande, Brasell, and Tsing.

Per *Taisang*, str., from Shanghai—Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Lingle and Mr. J. A. D'Almada. From Swatow—Mrs. Charles Seymour.
 Per *Guthrie*, str., from Sydney—Mr. L. M. King. From Townsville—Mr. and Mrs. Nakagawa and 2 children. From Thursday Island—Mr. and Mrs. Hayashi.
 Per *Bayern*, str., from Bremen, &c.—Messrs. James H. Watson and Yukichi Ito, Consul Teo Twien Liat, Messrs. F. Harloff, C. Detleson, C. Hinricksen, W. Henne, Mrs. J. Dalton and child, Messrs. A. McMillan, Otto Ploetz, W. Vogelgesang, W. Witt, G. May, Mr. and Mrs. Juney, Mr. A. Baines.
 Per *China*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mrs. Lewis, Miss Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. D. Muir, Master Muir, Messrs. H. King, Lan Chong, Wong Yik Jan, Miss Maud Villars, Miss Edith Rodney, Mrs. F. Healey.
 Per *Ravenna*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Messrs. S. Mareuse, and W. Van Corback and Miss Sinnot. For Singapore—Mr. G. Meannallay. For London—Mr. Peter MacCann.
 Per *Ancona*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Maddox, and Messrs. Wakeham, Conley, Lapsley, Wong Yew Chan, P. Shablofety, C. Danielsen, Poraldsen, Larsen, Pooberg, Hansen, Berntsen, and Christofersen, and Capt. Kneldsen.
 Per *Empress of India*, str., from Vancouver, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kung, Messrs. Chun Hoi, Tso Sun Wan, F. F. Jaques, H. B. Hitchings, H. Morris, R. C. Hope, R. Henderson, Major Pemberton, Mr. M. S. S. Sassoon, Mr. and Mrs. Sandemann, Messrs. F. W. Carey, W. Powell, and F. Dallas.
 DEPARTED.
 Per *Sachsen*, str., from Shanghai for Genoa—Messrs. Const Schmidt, Edeler and G. Pestarine. For Southampton—Mrs. Robinson. For Bremerhaven—Mr. E. Waden. From Yokohama for Southampton—Messrs. J. Winter, G. Mackay, J. McHashan, J. Sparks, P. Tressholt, D. Soutar, M. Calderon, H. Barrow, J. Mitchell, A. Tutbuoy, J. McKaig and H. Stewart. For Bremen—Mr. E. Priny. For Port Said—Mr. A. Vallantins. From Kobe for Southampton—Mr. A. W. Hordem. From Nagasaki for Singapore—Mrs. Blane, and Mrs. Fockter. From Hongkong for Southampton—Mr. W. Palmer Baker. For Antwerp—Messrs. Oh de Billerne and Heurek Haracacen.
 Per *Chingtu*, str., for Sydney—Hon. Audrey Coote.
 Per *Haitan*, str., for Amoy—Dr. and Mrs. Ringer, and Mr. Loh E Yang.
 Per *Hongkong*, str., for Haiphong—Mr. J. Defaix.
 Per *Kutsang*, str., for Singapore—Messrs. C. J. Demee, Wong Ho Chun, and U Wing Cheong.
 Per *Salazie*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon—Mrs. Wirth, Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. St. Leon, Mr. and Mrs. McMahon and 6 children, Messrs. J. Brandt, F. Abadie, Singh, E. McMahon, J. Alberto, W. Julian, Dorrance, J. Cameron, Schmidt, and Rev. Prodhomme. For Singapore—Mr. A. Angellier. For Batavia—Mr. A. A. Alvaris. For Marseilles—Misses P. and E. de Sales, Messrs. F. M. de Sales, G. Richarme, Delineau, R. Levy, Capt. L. Rivet, and Capt. E. Simons. From Shanghai for Saigon—Mr. Saillard, Sisters Isaac and Helene Joseph. For Singapore—Mr. Gray. For Bombay—Messrs. Forbes and Mascarenas. For Port Said—Messrs. Parenago, Lubba, Baron Jurgensberg, and Mrs. Grakowa. For Marseilles—Messrs. White, Cuissart, Degoste, Abezaminoff, Honjo, Fujinami, Amoyi, Nambo, Suzuki, Otari, Morishima, Komiyama, Dubousquet, Coepel, Abe, Durand, Mrs. Abezaminoff, and Mrs. Durand.
 Per *Doric*, str., for Nagasaki—Mr. F. A. G. Ellert, Mrs. Okiku. For Yokohama—Surgeon Major James, Lieut. Vorsin, Mr. E. C. Welch. For San Francisco—Mr. G. S. Northcote.
 Per *Catherine Apcar*, str., for Singapore—Messrs. Hyde Ali, Leung Chuen, Chan Sang, Mrs. Ah Tin, Mrs. Ah Yee, Mr. McLanglin, Mr. Chun Luk Tun, Mr. and Mrs. Lo Pew, Mrs. Pang Sze, Mrs. Loi Sze, Mr. Hu Hing, and Lum Chun. For Calcutta—Assist. Surgeon L. H. Clarke, and Sundar Karam Khan.